

MASTER CLASS WITH AAGAARD | SHANKLAND ON THE ONLINE OLYMPIAD | SPIEGEL'S THREE QUESTIONS

CHESSLIFE

NOVEMBER 2020 | USCHESS.ORG

The Queen's Gambit

A new Netflix limited series highlights the Royal Game

 US CHESS

A seasonal gift from US CHESS:

A free copy of *Chess Life*!

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Dear Chess Friends:

When one of our members has a good idea, we take it seriously.

Tweeting on October 31 – Halloween Day! – National Master Han Schut suggested we provide a “holiday present” to chess players around the world.

What a swell idea.

Chess Life is the official magazine of US Chess. Each month we here at *Chess Life* work to publish the best of American chess in all of its facets. In recent issues we have brought you articles by **GM Jesse Kraai** on chess in the time of coronavirus; **GM Jon Tisdall's** look at online chess; **IM Eric Rosen** on “the new chess boom,” featuring a cover that went viral on social media!; **Michael Tisserand** on Charlie Gabriel, the coolest octogenarian jazz player and chess fan in New Orleans; and **GM Maurice Ashley** on 11-year-old phenom IM Abhimanyu Mishra.

Our November issue has gained wide attention across the world for its cover story on the Netflix limited series *The Queen's Gambit* by longtime *Chess Life* columnist **Bruce Pandolfini**. It also features articles by **GM Jacob Aagaard**, **GM Sam Shankland**, and **WFM Elizabeth Spiegel**, made famous in the 2012 documentary *Brooklyn Castle*. Our usual stable of columnists, including **GMs Lev Albur** and **Andy Soltis**, **IM John Watson**, **FM Carsten Hansen**, and the aforementioned Bruce Pandolfini round out a fine issue indeed.

It's our gift to you as a chess fan, free of charge. Consider it a “COVID care package” from US Chess to our friends across the chess-playing world.

From beginners through experts, there is something in every issue of *Chess Life* for players of every strength. We hope you enjoy your reading, and if you like what you see, perhaps you will consider becoming a US Chess member or renewing your existing membership.

A regular US Chess membership is \$40/year, and provides the right to earn an official US Chess rating (now including online events!) and a digital subscription to *Chess Life*. A premium US Chess membership (\$49/year) has all the benefits of a regular membership, with the addition of a paper copy of *Chess Life* mailed to your door each month. At half the price of other leading chess magazines, and with more issues per year, subscribing to *Chess Life* in this way is quite a bargain.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Here's to empowering people, enriching lives, and enhancing communities through chess, and to growing a game that we all love.

Best regards,

John Hartmann
Editor, *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Online*



Join for as little
as \$40 annually.

[Click here to join
US Chess today.](#)



Check out our online events!

Calling all
scholastic
players...

The K-12 Showdown!

December 12-13, 2020



K-12 SHOWDOWN

Come join in the fun! Hosted on *ChessKid.com* and *Chess.com*. Grades K-5 will be hosted by *ChessKid.com*. Grades 6-12 will be hosted by *Chess.com*.

Enter today by clicking the image on the left.

CHESS.COM ONLINE QUALIFIER

Would you like a chance to play in the 2021 U.S. Championship? US Chess has partnered with *chess.com* to offer the opportunity for precisely that. Open to any current US Chess member.

Click right to visit the site and register.

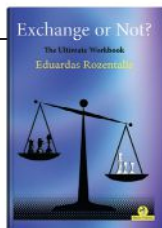


BLITZ EVERY FRIDAY

Don't miss the US Chess Morning Membership Event – exclusively for US Chess members! Hosted by FIDE Events Manager Chris Bird.

Sign up now by clicking the image on the left.

A banner for the "MORNING MEMBERSHIP EVENT" featuring "WITH CHRIS BIRD, FIDE EVENTS MANAGER". It includes a photo of Chris Bird, a chessboard with pieces, and a screenshot of a chess game interface. At the bottom, it says "Sign up, renew your membership, or make a donation at uschess.org".



EXCHANGE OR NOT

by Eduardas Rozentalis

B0086TH - \$33.95

The author of this book has turned his attention towards the best tool for chess improvement: test your current knowledge! Our author has provided the most important key elements to practice one of the most difficult decisions: exchange or not! With most competitive games nowadays being played to a finish in a single session, this knowledge may prove invaluable over the board. His brand new coverage is the best tool for anyone looking to improve his insights or can be used as perfect teaching material.



THE LENINGRAD DUTCH

by Vladimir Malaniuk & Petr Marusenko

B0105EU - \$33.95

GM Vladimir Malaniuk has been the main driving force behind the Leningrad Variation for decades. Malaniuk has found many original plans which turned this branch of the Dutch into an active and dangerous weapon. White cannot enter dull and boring positions even if he insists on this. Therefore, it is often used when Black wishes to play for a win, particularly in decisive games. The book also offers a repertoire against 1.c4 and 1.♘f3.

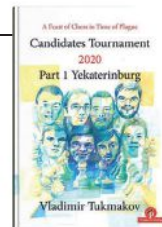


MAGNUS WINS WITH WHITE

by Zenon Franco

B0032ER - \$19.95

In this book, the author deeply analyses 32 of Magnus Carlsen's most instructive games where he wins with the white pieces. This book is written in "move by move" style, a good training tool containing exercises and tests. This format is a great platform for studying chess, improving both skills and knowledge, as the reader is continually challenged to find the best moves and the author provides answers to probing questions throughout.

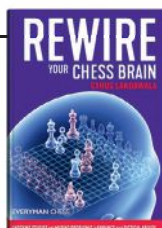


CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT 2020 - PART 1 - YEKATERINBURG

by Vladimir Tukmakov

B0078TH - \$38.95

Another ground-breaking work from the author, bringing the story of the Candidates 2020. According to his observations and analysis the players were ready to fight for a place to challenge the World Champion. However no one could have even imagined how difficult the road to that tournament would be nor how unexpected the outcome. Yet the significance of the actual numbers in this dramatic epic is hard to overestimate which is why the author will attempt to play the role of chronicler and try to describe as accurately as possible the key moments of this historic event.



REWIRE YOUR CHESS BRAIN

by Cyrus Lakdawala

B0532EM - \$32.95

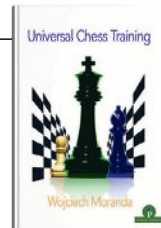
Prolific chess author and coach Cyrus Lakdawala has been intrigued by studies and problems all his life. When training his students he often sets them studies and problems to solve. Many of them who have adopted this technique have seen extraordinary increases in their chess ratings. In this book Lakdawala assembles the problems and studies that are most effective to improve tactical ability. Work your way through this book and you will undoubtedly see the results in your own games.

UNIVERSAL CHESS TRAINING

by Wojciech Moranda

B0085TH - \$39.95

Are you struggling with your chess development? While dedicating hours and hours on improving your craft, your rating simply does not want to move upwards. No worries - this book is a game changer! The author has identified the key skills that will enhance the progress of just about any player rated between 1600 and 2500. Becoming a strong chess thinker is namely not only reserved exclusively for elite players, but actually constitutes the cornerstone of chess training.

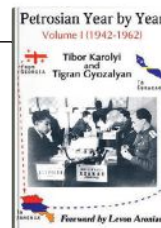


PETROSIAN YEAR BY YEAR - VOLUME 1 (1942-1962)

by Tibor Karolyi & Tigran Gyozyalyan

B0033ER - \$34.95

International Master Tibor Karolyi and FIDE Master Tigran Gyozyalyan have written a comprehensive two-volume treatise on the life and games of Tigran Petrosian, who was world champion from 1963-1969. The present Volume I takes the reader on a journey from Tigran's childhood, through the war years, successes in Georgian and Armenian national championships, his emergence as an elite player winning the Soviet championship and Olympic gold, and victory at the famous 1962 Candidates Tournament in Curacao.

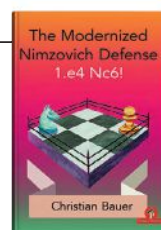


THE MODERNIZED NIMZOWICH DEFENSE - 1. e4 Nc6!

by Christian Bauer

B0084TH - \$38.95

There is no doubt that the Nimzovich Defense is one of Black's most inspiring openings after 1.e4. Black strives to unbalance the position by creating new problems for White from move two, giving himself every opportunity to fight for the initiative from the outset. In this book, GM Christian Bauer explains how to use this powerful weapon drawing from his own successful experiences.

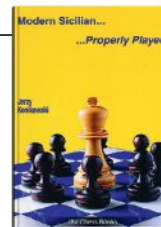


MODERN SICILIAN - PROPERLY PLAYED

by Jerry Konikowski

B0014SU - \$29.95

The Sicilian Defense, which is suitable for players of all levels, has long been the most played opening against 1.e2-e4 and its popularity continues to grow. The reason is that sharp and complicated positions arise, which offer black excellent dynamic counter play. In the first part, the author treats all possible deviations before reaching the basic position with 1.e5 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 etc. - such as the Closed Sicilian, the Morra Gambit, the Alapin Variation, the Grand-Prix Attack, the continuation 3.♗b5+ etc.

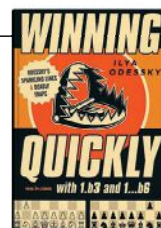


WINNING QUICKLY WITH 1. B3 AND 1...B6

by Ilya Odessky

B0238NIC - \$29.95

International Master Ilya Odessky is the world's leading expert on the 1.b3 and 1...b6 chess opening systems. Despite their apparent calm, these openings can get extremely sharp. Now Odessky presents his findings and achievements of recent years. His baffling traps will help you crush your opponents in the opening, with both White and Black. Ilya Odessky will entertain, amuse and surprise you in this highly unusual chess opening book full of ultra-romantic chess.





{ EDITORIAL }

CHESS LIFE/CLO EDITOR **John Hartmann** (john.hartmann@uschess.org)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Frankie Butler**

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR **Melinda Matthews**

CREATIVE CONTENT COORDINATOR **Natasha Roberts**

TECHNICAL EDITOR **IM Ron Burnett**

TLA **Joan DuBois** (tla@uschess.org)

{ US CHESS STAFF }

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Carol Meyer**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION **Daniel Lucas**

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS **Boyd Reed**

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT **Geoffrey S. Isaak**

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION **Judy Misner**

WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR **Jennifer Shahade**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EVENTS **Pete Karagianis**

FIDE EVENTS MANAGER **Christopher Bird**

AFFILIATE RELATIONS ASSOCIATE **Joan DuBois**

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT **Debra Robison**

GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR **Jennifer Pearson**

MAILING LISTS/MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE **Traci Lee**

MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE **Christine Green**

DIGITAL ASSISTANT **Brian Jerauld**

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS **Alex Dunne**

{ EXECUTIVE BOARD }

PRESIDENT **Mike Hoffpauir** (president@uschess.org)

VICE PRESIDENT **Randy Bauer** (vp@uschess.org)

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE **Chuck Unruh** (vpfinance@uschess.org)

SECRETARY **Ryan Velez** (secretary@uschess.org)

MEMBER AT LARGE **David Day** (DavidChessDay@gmail.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE **Fun Fong** (fun.fong.jr@gmail.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE **David Hater** (dhater1@aol.com)

{ INQUIRIES }

For communications and press inquiries, please contact
Dan Lucas at dllucas@uschess.org (931) 200-5509

For advertising inquiries, please contact Melinda Matthews mmatthews@uschess.org

For TLA display ads, please contact Joan DuBois tla@uschess.org (931) 787-1234, ext. 123

To submit letters to the editor, please email letters@uschess.org

To submit Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs) please email
tla@uschess.org or mail to P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967

To join US Chess, or enter a tournament directed by US Chess,
go to uschess.org or call 1-800-903-USCF (8723)

If you wish to notify us of a change of address, please send to addresschange@uschess.org

Please submit all other inquiries to feedback@uschess.org, (931) 787-1234, fax (931) 787-1200

For Tournament Director Certification information, please email tdcert-group@uschess.org
For all staff contact information, please see new.uschess.org/about

Chess Life is the official publication of the US Chess Federation

CONTRIBUTORS

NOVEMBER



GM Jacob Aagaard

One of the world's leading chess writers and trainers, GM Jacob Aagaard has worked with both young talents and elite players around the globe, including some of America's best juniors at the US Chess School. Aagaard is one of the founders of Quality Chess Publishing and a partner in the online Killer Chess Academy. His most recent literary efforts are two co-authorial roles in Boris Gelfand's newest books: *Decision Making in Major Piece Endings* and *Technical Decision Making in Chess*.



Bruce Pandolfini

Chess Life columnist Bruce Pandolfini shot to chess stardom with his work as an analyst for the WNET/PBS live coverage of the 1972 World Championship Match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky. Since then he has become perhaps the most famous scholastic chess coach in America, working with the likes of Fabiano Caruana and Josh Waitzkin through the years, and he has authored dozens of chess books.



GM Sam Shankland

Former U.S. Champion (2018) GM Sam Shankland is one of America's top chess competitors, currently ranked sixth among active players at 2691 FIDE. He is the author of two books—*Small Steps to Giant Improvement: Master Pawn Play in Chess* (2018) and *Small Steps 2 Success: Mastering Passed Pawn Play* (2019)—and is currently working on a book on technical rook endgames.



WFM Elizabeth Spiegel

While WFM Elizabeth Spiegel was made famous for her real-life performance in *Brooklyn Castle*, the 2012 documentary focused on the chess program at I.S. 318 in Brooklyn, NY where she coaches, Spiegel has been one of America's top scholastic coaches and advocates for two decades. A participant in the 2007 U.S. Women's Championship, Spiegel was named the 2019 Chess Educator of the Year, an award presented by the University of Texas at Dallas.



John Hartmann

John Hartmann is the current editor of *Chess Life* and the winner of the 2020 Chess Journalist of the Year Award from the Chess Journalists of America.

ON THE COVER

Anya Taylor-Joy is brilliant in her portrayal of Beth Harmon in the new Netflix limited series "The Queen's Gambit."

COVER PHOTO BY CHARLIE GRAY,
COURTESY OF NETFLIX



Chess Life

NOVEMBER

COLUMNS

- 10 **CHESS TO ENJOY / ENTERTAINMENT**
Life, interrupted
BY GM ANDY SOLTIS
- 12 **BACK TO BASICS / TRAIN YOUR GAME**
Finding the Big Move
BY GM LEV ALBURT & AL LAWRENCE
- 46 **PUZZLES / MAKE YOUR MOVE!**
BY FM CARSTEN HANSEN
- 50 **BOOKS AND BEYOND / SHOULD I BUY IT?**
Rewriting the History of the Development of Chess Ideas
BY IM JOHN WATSON
- 52 **SOLITAIRE CHESS / INSTRUCTION**
The Professional
BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **NOVEMBER PREVIEW / THE MONTH AHEAD AT CLO**
- 5 **COUNTERPLAY / READERS RESPOND**
- 6 **FIRST MOVES / CHESS NEWS FROM AROUND THE U.S.**
- 7 **FACES ACROSS THE BOARD /**
BY AL LAWRENCE
- 8 **US CHESS AFFAIRS / NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS**
- 9 **ACROSS THE BOARD / PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**
- 54 **TOURNAMENT LIFE / NOVEMBER**
- 58 **CLASSIFIEDS / NOVEMBER**
- 59 **SOLUTIONS / NOVEMBER**
- 60 **MY BEST MOVE / PERSONALITIES THIS MONTH: KIMBERLY LIU**

PHOTO: KEN WORONER, NETFLIX

30

COVER STORY

Worth the Wait

BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI

Walter Tevis' 1983 novel, *The Queen's Gambit*, has finally hit the (small) screen as a Netflix limited series. Bruce Pandolfini brings us the story, from start to finish.

16

EVENTS / FIDE ONLINE OLYMPIAD

Team USA Falls in FIDE Online Olympiad Semi-Finals

BY GM SAM SHANKLAND

Russia and India share gold in controversial final.

24

INSTRUCTION / ANALYZING WITH ENGINES

Master Class: Analyzing Your Games with Engines

BY GM JACOB AAGAARD

Killer tips from an elite chess writer and trainer

40

INSTRUCTION / TACTICS

Improving Your Tactical Sensibilities

BY WFM ELIZABETH SPIEGEL

One of America's leading scholastic coaches shares three questions that will help you see more in-game shots.

48

PROBLEMS / FIDE CUP WINNERS

Some Real Puzzlers

BY JOHN HARTMANN

Three winners from the 2020 FIDE World Cup in Composing

US Chess Membership Rates: Premium (P) and Regular (R)

(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

Type	1 yr	2 yr
Adult P	\$49	\$95
Adult R	\$40	\$75
Senior (65+)	\$40	\$75
Young Adult P (25 & UND)*	\$35	\$65
Young Adult R (25 & UND)*	\$26	\$48
Youth P (16 & UND)*	\$30	\$55
Youth R (16 & UND)*	\$22	\$40
Scholastic P (13 & UND)*	\$25	\$45
Scholastic R (13 & UND)*	\$17	\$30

Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online-only access to Chess Life and Chess Life Kids. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice.

**Ages at expiration date of membership being purchased*

U.S. CHESS TRUST

SUPPLIES SETS AND BOARDS TO AT-RISK
SCHOOLKIDS ACROSS THE USA!

USCT also supports:

Denker Tournament of High School Champions
National Girls Tournament of Champions
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions
Scholar-Chessplayer Awards
Final Four of College Chess
World Disabled Youth Championship
Chess Sets for Vets
Chess for Older Americans
World Chess Hall of Fame
Tournament of Senior Champions
Oral Chess History of USA Project

Rochelle Wu, 2017
National Girls Tournament of
Champions winner

For more information on the good work
of the U.S. Chess Trust, please go to:

www.uschesstrust.org

The Trust is a separate 501(c)(3) organization
operating independent of US Chess.



SUPERNATIONALS VII

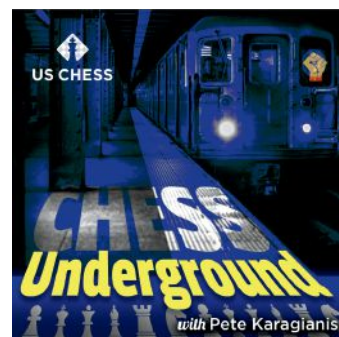
MAY 7-9, 2021 | NASHVILLE

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT USCHESS.ORG

CHESS LIFE ONLINE

NOVEMBER PREVIEW



Tune in and listen to our podcasts at uschess.org

COVER STORIES WITH CHESS LIFE For the November edition of Cover Stories, available on the first Tuesday of the month, *Chess Life* editor John Hartmann will talk with Bruce Pandolfini about his involvement (and on-screen cameo!) with the newly released Netflix series, *The Queen's Gambit*.

ONE MOVE AT A TIME

In November, our podcast that highlights people around the country who are advancing our mission to “empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess” will feature Tim Just talking about the *Rulebook's* updated Online Chess rules, his monthly *CLO* column, and his life in chess. Hosted by Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas, One Move is available on the second Tuesday of each month.

LADIES KNIGHT

Ladies Knight kicked off a spectacular fall with September's guest, GM Irina Krush, who spoke about her battle with COVID-19 and her renewed commitment to training. Special guests from Kenya, part of our “Kenya and US Chess Girls Meet Through Chess” project, also will be featured in upcoming months. Women's Program Director Jennifer Shahade hosts this award-winning podcast, which drops on the third Tuesday of the month.

THE CHESS UNDERGROUND

Hosted by Assistant Director of Events Pete Karagianis, The Chess Underground explores the subculture (and occasionally, subversive culture) that is chess—all of its eccentricities, peculiarities, and theoretical novelties. The Chess Underground is available the fourth Tuesday of the month.

USCHESS *Streaming*

NEW VIDEO PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS

LEVELLING UP

Chess Life / Chess Life Online Editor **John Hartmann** takes a look at games between players rated under 1400. By understanding typical mistakes at that level, newer players young and old can “level up” more quickly.

THE TD SHOW

FIDE Events Manager and National Tournament Director **Chris Bird** and guests help explain everything you could ever want to know about US Chess rules and tournament direction.

CLASS IN SESSION

US Chess Women's online programming, created by **Jennifer Shahade**, is growing: in addition to our weekly “Girls Club Zooms” with the top players in the country, we are expanding our offerings to adult Ladies Knights, teenager college prep discussions, and beginner classes.

Sign up to these playlists on YouTube!



SOCIALIZE Join us on **Instagram** @US_Chess and **Twitter** @USChess as well as on our accounts @USChessWomen. And be sure to bookmark and visit uschess.org/clo to ensure you catch the latest news on our digital presence.

Letters: *Knight Moves*



THAT DARNED KNIGHT ...

Every 10 or 15 years or so GM Andy Soltis manages to disappoint me, albeit unintentionally. Now, for perhaps the third or fourth time since the 1970s he does it in my favorite *Chess Life* column, “Chess to Enjoy” (Beginner’s Luck, September 2020) by succumbing to one of the most egregious sins of many chess writers. I speak of the notorious practice of describing the move of the knight as “L-shaped” !?

The knight’s move is the one that causes most problems for newcomers to chess, but it would appear that the move also causes big problems for writers of chess primers.

Soltis writes, “The simplest way to explain the knight is to show an L-shape in a diagram,” after observing that “we teach chess in a way that is needlessly difficult.”

Well, would that be a tall L or a squat L, an upside down L or a backwards L? And what about the possibility of other pieces in the way? Then there’s an alternate approach of describing the knight as moving one square as a rook followed by an additional square as a bishop—or vice-versa. At least there’s some harmony or affinity with those other two other pieces ... sort of. We then go completely overboard by opting for the knight moving from one corner of a two by three square rectangle to the catty corner as an “explanation.” Whew!

None of these well-meaning attempts take into account that chess grew from *chatarunga*, the ancient game where the knight represented a horse, one of four divisions of the Indian army. The knight symbolized animal energy—a dynamic based on a living muscular entity, not an inorganic apparatus that progressed robotically.

Horses jump. Infantry (pawns) don’t. Neither do elephants (bishops) or even chariots (rooks).

The knight moves two squares, leaping over adjacent squares, occupied or not, to an opposite-color square from its origin. For example, when moving from g1 to f3, the knight flies over both f2 and g2. Unlike all other chessmen, it leaves the two-dimensional plane of the board as it moves, whether capturing or occupying an empty square.

Knights arc over surrounding squares with alacrity and grace. Ask the “L-shaped” crowd if they really think that when Kramnik plays 1. Nf3 he actually moves the piece “through” his g-pawn to g3 and then, braking and turning like some squeaking wheel, moves the piece sideways to f3. No! He, like every other chessplayer, picks UP the knight from g1 and arcs it over f2 and g2 to f3 straight away. Our German friends don’t call this piece “springer” for nothing.

The only other instance where we see this kind of movement is when we castle and the involved rook goes over the king ... but that’s another story.

It’s fitting, I think, that the knight not only has the unique power to leap, but it also is the only piece in a set of Staunton chessmen that is

not a symmetrically turned figurine. I applaud Nathaniel Cooke for his decision to design his knight on the horses of the “Elgin Marbles” of the Parthenon! I suspect Mr. Cooke would see it my way on the matter of the knight’s wonderful move.

In closing—should GM Soltis unexpectedly wish to make amends to me for his latest transgression—he need only forward me a complimentary copy of his new book on Botvinnik. I don’t expect I will find fault with it.

Paul Kollat
via email

Soltis responds:

My point is that it is much easier to learn how the knight moves from a diagram.

If you don’t believe me, try teaching an absolute beginner, perhaps your grandmother, using Mr. Kollat’s words: “The knight moves two squares, leaping over adjacent squares, occupied or not, to an opposite colored square of its origin.”

I think Grandma would have an easier time if you tried to explain the infield fly rule.

ANOTHER LETTER ...

There are many awkward ways to describe the Knight Move. But the L shape that Soltis recommends is also a little clunky. An L is only intuitive if it’s right side up. If it’s upside down or on its side, not so much. The “Fishhook,” which Soltis didn’t mention, is a little awkward, too.

My rating is 2200, and ever since I first began playing, I’ve imagined that the knight always moves exactly two squares—one lateral (left, right, up, down), the second diagonal (away from its starting point, no doubling back). In other words, sort of a short-range combination of the rook’s and bishop’s moves.

So, if a game opens 1. Nf3, I’ve always imagined the knight starting on g1 (or KN1, as it was called in those days), passing over g2 (but NOT g3, because what’s the point in that?), and landing on f3. It would work equally well if you imagined the diagonal move coming first.

Graeme Cree
via email

... AND ANOTHER

Since the knight sits between the bishop and rook, I say move one square like a bishop and one square like a rook, or one square like a rook and one square like a bishop, and always end up on the opposite color.

Tony Cottell
via email

Send your letters to letters@uschess.org. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.



Youth Prevails at 2020 Hawaii State Championship

At age 12, Mark Chen wins state crown with 4-1 score.

By **DAMIAN NASH**

Over the Labor Day weekend, 12-year-old Mark Chen became the youngest Hawaii state chess champion in state history. Chen may seem like a typical eighth grader to his peers, enjoying hanging out and playing games with friends, but he pursues his hobbies with great discipline and remarkable achievement. Chen won first place in his division as a seven-year-old at the Hawaii Music Teachers Association (HMTA) Piano

Competition in 2015, an event he described as “stressful.” He still plays piano and especially loves Chopin’s Nocturnes, but his competitive energy has found a new home in chess.

The five-round Hawaii State Open Chess tournament went online for the first time because of COVID-19 restrictions. While the new format kept some of Hawaii’s top players from participating, Mark still started in the middle of a strong field. (Hawaii players tend to

play above their official US Chess rating strength because of the lack of rated events on the islands.) As a relatively experienced tournament player who has represented Hawaii twice in the Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions, Chen systematically defeated his first two opponents.

In the third round, playing with black, Chen faced the top-seed, a former state champion, and soon found himself in a very

sharp line of the Evans Gambit. Instead of castling to safety, he played a natural-looking move, which allowed a beautiful sacrifice by his opponent. With his king trapped in the middle of the board, Chen was checkmated quickly. “After that loss I thought my chances to win the tournament were over, so I just relaxed a little and decided to have more fun.” His fourth round turned out to be a very complicated game against a tournament veteran, but Chen was able to squeeze out a win from a drawn position.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C10)

Mark Chen (1701)

Marvin Alvarez (1649)

Hawaii State Open Championship (4),

09.06.2020

Annotations by Mark Chen

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bd7 5. Nf3 Bc6 6. Ng3

Better was 6. Bd3 to support the e4-knight.

6. ... Nd7 7. Be2 Ngf6 8. O-O Bd6 9. Bg5 h6 10. Be3 O-O 11. c4 Bxf3 12. Bxf3 c6 13. Rc1

This move wasn't good, as the rook really isn't useful on the c-file. It would have been smarter to do something like 13. Re1 followed by Qd1-d2 and Ra1-d1.

13. ... a5 14. Qb3 Qc7 15. Rfd1 Rfe8 16. d5

Imprecise, as my center was pretty strong and I shouldn't have rushed a breakthrough. The problem with my position is that there's no easy way to improve it.

16. ... Nc5

He missed his chance to open up and get some counterplay with 16. ... a4 and ... Nd7-e5.

17. Qc2 Rad8 18. dxc6 bxc6 19. Rd2

I was struggling to find a plan, so I just decided to double my rooks on the d-file.

19. ... Be7 20. Rcd1 Rxd2 21. Rxd2 Nfd7 22. Ne4 f5 23. Nxc5 Nxc5 24. Bxc5

I calculated that I win a pawn at the end of this line, but in hindsight, it really wasn't worth getting into an opposite color bishop endgame.

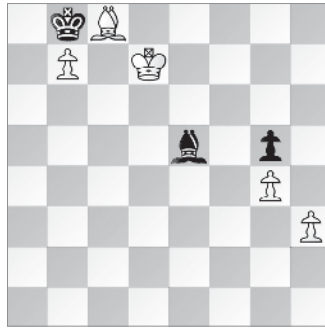
24. ... Bxc5 25. Qd3 Bb6 26. Qd7

Here I could have kept the rooks on the board with 26. Qd6, but for some reason I thought I would be better if I traded them off.

26. ... Re7 27. Qxc7 Rxc7 28. Rd6 Kf7 29. Rxc6 Rxc6 30. Bxc6 Kf6 31. a3 Bc5 32. Kf1 e5 33. Ke2 Bd4 34. b4 axb4 35. axb4 Bc3 36. b5 Bd4 37. f3 g5

Stopping my pawns with 37. ... Kg5 would be better.

38. h3 Ke6 39. Kd3 Kd6 40. g4 Ke6 41. Bb7 fxg4 42. fxg4 Bc5 43. Ke4 Bf8 44. Bc8+ Kd6 45. Kf5 Kc5 46. Kxe5 Kxc4 47. b6 Kc5 48. b7 Bd6+ 49. Kf5 Kc6 50. Kg6 Kc7 51. Kxh6 Be7 52. Kg6 Kb8 53. Kf7 Bd8 54. Ke8 Bf6 55. Kd7 Be5



56. Kc6?

When I made this move, I thought it was already a drawn position. I miscalculated and didn't realize that 56. h4! actually won!

56. ... Bf6?

Very lucky he didn't see 56. ... Bg3 followed by 57. ... Bh4, just locking the position up.

57. Bf5 Bd8 58. Be4 Bf6 59. h4 gxh4 60. Kd6 h3 61. Ke6 Bh4 62. Kf5 Bg3 63. g5 Kc7 64. Kf6 Kd7 65. Kf7 h2 66. g6 Be5 67. g7 Bxg7 68. Kxg7, Black resigned.

This resilient attitude also paid off in the final round when Chen faced the second-seeded player, who needed only a draw to win the tournament. “The game stayed very close up until the end,” he explained. “Then, in the endgame, he finally made a little mistake that allowed me to win a pawn.” Chen carefully applied correct endgame technique until his opponent was forced to resign.

“I didn't expect to win this tournament,” Chen modestly admitted. “It was my goal to win this tournament before I graduated from high school.” He credits his recent success to his current coach, International Grandmaster Andriy Vovk, who is helping him understand the game at a deeper level. Two Hawaii teenagers have won the state chess champion title before—Robert Lau in 2008 and Eldon Nakagawa in 2012, both at age 16. But now a pre-teen has claimed the title and put Hawaii's active master players on notice. ♠

Damien Nash is a US Chess rated expert and a senior tournament director. He was Hawaii state co-champion in 2018, and is the current Hawaii senior state champion. Nash has worked as an educator for many years, teaching high school STEM fields, AP psychology, and gifted and talented programs. Currently he is a school improvement coach in Honolulu.

FACES ACROSS THE BOARD

By AL LAWRENCE



COACH ERIC LUSTER

CALUMET CITY,
ILLINOIS

The art of making good decisions

Captured chess pieces fly while *en prise* French fries go missing every day of the week at the South Chicago McDonald's where Eric plays blitz.

He showed his potential when he once drew an IM and defeated all other opponents to win a tournament. But he says his biggest accomplishments are “the many students that I have been able to reach.” Eric's chess goals now “focus on my daughter Shakira, who wishes to become a chess master someday.” (For more on Shakira, see the October 2020 issue of *Chess Life Kids*. ~ed.)

Coach Luster teaches math and science to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at St. Ethelreda's Catholic School in Chicago. Earlier this year, the Archdiocese selected Eric as Elementary School Educator of the Year.

Seven years ago, he started a school chess club after reading about the benefits the game provides for kids. “I love watching kids progress in chess. There's something amazing to see a child learn ... in such a short period of time.”

“In the fall, I was able to bring a St. Ethelreda school team to the Illinois All Grade Championship.” That team, later taking the name “The Unruly Queens” won the eighth-grade section, becoming the first African American team, as well as the first female team, to win the Illinois title! Shakira led the squad. She's number 31 (as of September) on the US Chess Top 100 list of 14 years old girls.

Eric hosts the Facebook page “African American Chess Association,” open to all. Working with Dr. Daaim Shabazz of *The Chess Drum*, Eric began a website registry of African Americans who play chess somewhat seriously, whether or not they're US Chess members. You can find a link on the Facebook page.

“Chess can help all people channel their thinking and practice the art of making good decisions. Particularly in the African American community, I feel that chess could be a remedy to some of the ills that we face. Many of our young men in particular get caught up in bad situations due to poor decision-making practices that could possibly be eliminated via chess.”

US Chess Welcomes Brian Jerauld



BRIAN JERAULD

Effective September 14 2020, Brian Jerauld joined US Chess as its Digital Assistant. Although Brian's "official" start date is recent, his name may be familiar from his freelance work for *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Online* dating back to 2013. Based in St. Louis, the Mizzou journalist has covered several U.S. Championships, U.S. Junior and Sinquefeld Cup tournaments. He also penned a weekly chess column for St. Louis-NPR for several years, and later served as the communications specialist for the Saint Louis Chess Club, leading the media arm for the international center and its high-profile events.

Beyond writing, Brian's other chess passion is connecting the game to education. He teaches chess for gifted classes, organizes social clubs, and coaches competitive teams in several St. Louis schools and parishes. Outside of chess, Brian enjoys coaching youth soccer, playing ultimate frisbee, and spending time with his wife and four kids.

The Digital Assistant works directly with the *Chess Life Online* editor to advance the US Chess mission via our website and social media platforms. Key responsibilities of the Digital Assistant include writing articles that help drive traffic to uschess.org, editing content and posting to the website, promoting US Chess across social media platforms, discovering and sharing appropriate stories and photos that communicate our mission, and growing our social media presence.

Brian can be reached at bjerauld@uschess.org.

Nominating Committee Election

On Saturday, September 26, US Chess held a Special Delegates Meeting to elect members to the new Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will have eight members—six appointed by the Delegates and two appointed by the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee was created to broaden the candidate pool for US Chess Executive Board elections.

The top six candidates receiving votes will serve as members of the Nominating Committee:

NAME	VOTES
Michelle Martinez (AZ)	81
Sophia Rohde (NY)	80
David Grimaud (SC)	77
Daa'im Shabazz (FL)	76
Chris Wainscott (WI)	66
Randy Hough (CA-S)	57
Jonathon Singler (AK)	33
Steve Morford (CA-S)	31

In addition, several write-in candidates received one vote each: Brian Glover, Rachel Liebermann, Jim Mennella, Allen Priest, Dylan Quercia, Tim Redman.

The Executive Board has appointed two additional members to the Nominating Committee, Joy Bray (MO) and Hal Sprechman (NJ).

Congratulations to the inaugural members of the Nominating Committee, who will begin their work on identifying candidates for the Executive Board for the 2021 election.

Video of this meeting is available at <https://new.uschess.org/news/executive-board-nominating-committee-election>



Call for Nominations

The US Chess Federation (US Chess) will hold an election in 2021 for three at-large positions on the US Chess Executive Board. The top two finishers will be elected for term a term of four years expiring in 2025. The third place finisher will be elected to a term of two years expiring in 2023.

Any current US Chess member who is not a current US Chess employee or designated contractor (as defined in the US Chess bylaws) may be nominated for election to the Executive Board.

Nominations must be made by petition containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more members of US Chess who are either registered or eligible to register to vote, and by payment of a filing fee of \$100 to the US Chess Federation.

The members signing the nomination petition must include at least fifteen (15) US Chess delegates representing at least five (5) states. (Signatures of alternate delegates do not count toward this requirement.) The petition to nominate a candidate and the filing fee must be postmarked by Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Send petitions and the filing fee to: US Chess Federation, ATTN: Governance Coordinator, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967. Petitions may also be submitted electronically to governance@uschess.org.

The nomination petitions must contain the dated signature, printed name, and US Chess ID number of each signer, and should contain the following text:

"We, the undersigned members of the US Chess Federation, nominate _ (candidate name goes here) _ as a candidate for election to the US Chess Executive Board in the 2021 election. We also consent to having our names and US Chess ID numbers published as having signed this petition."

A sample nomination form will be made available on the US Chess website.

Candidates must consent to be on the ballot either by signing their own nomination petition or by separate notice to US Chess.

A voting member for this election is any current US Chess member (active as of May 4, 2021) whose membership expires on or after June 30, 2021, who will be age 16 or older as of June 30, 2021, and who registers to vote by May 1, 2021. Members with memberships of less than one year duration at their start are not eligible to become voting members.

Ballots will be distributed to voting members who are registered to vote as of May 1, 2021. Ballot distribution will occur around June 10th and returned ballots will be counted in July. The terms will begin at the conclusion of the 2021 delegates' meeting.

ACROSS THE BOARD

By **MIKE HOFFPAUIR** PRESIDENT, US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear friends,

I know that we are all eager to get back to over-the-board play as soon as we can. We can only hope that the next few weeks and months will shed more light on a vaccine that lets us 'round the corner' on the COVID-19 crisis. In the meantime, please be sure you continue to observe local regulations when organizing an over-the-board event — no one wants their chess tournament making front page news as the unwitting cause of COVID resurgence.

While we are all waiting for over-the-board play to resume, I believe that online play is here to stay, even after the COVID situation subsides. My view is that it has opened new opportunities that we have not yet begun to fully explore. Just imagine, for example, the top 30 players in Chicago playing the top 30 in Los Angeles in a weekend-long online match. Or an elementary, middle, or high school in one state playing a counterpart school in another state!

Fair play violations—or cheating, as it is more commonly known—continues to be a major concern among players, organizers, and tournament directors. The surge in online play has increased those concerns. To deter cheating and help assure a fair playing environment for all players, US Chess intends to begin posting the results of adjudicated cheating claims. We are working with the Ethics Committee and other committees with sanctioning authority to solidify the format for such postings.

In addition, we have tasked the US Chess Competition Integrity Committee to review the results of completed cases that involved cheating. Their goal is to identify best practices that organizers and tournament directors can implement to deter and detect cheating.

I'll conclude by noting that the 2020 Holiday Season is almost upon us. US Chess will soon launch its annual holiday giving campaign, enabling you to contribute to a wide array of chess initiatives such as our women's program, support for at-risk youth, and general program support. As you contemplate a gift, just remember that if you want your donation to go to US Chess, then give to US Chess. There are many worthwhile charitable organizations, like the US Chess Trust (which is a separate 501(c)(3) organization operating independent of US Chess), but there is only one US Chess. If you have a question about donating to US Chess, please contact Geoff Isaak at Geoff.Isaak@uschess.org.

Stay safe out there!

Yours in chess,
Mike Hoffpauir, President



MIKE HOFFPAUIR, PRESIDENT



DAVID DAY, MEMBER AT LARGE



DAVID HATER, MEMBER AT LARGE



FUN FONG, MEMBER AT LARGE



RANDY BAUER, VICE PRESIDENT



RYAN VELEZ, SECRETARY



CHUCK UNRUH, VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE

Life, interrupted

Internet disconnections and server errors are only the latest in a long line of unplanned in-game intermissions.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

GRANDMASTER GAMES ARE OFTEN hyped as “historic.” This game set a precedent and it’s one we seem doomed to repeat.

RUY LOPEZ, BREYER VARIATION (C95)

GM Garry Kasparov

GM Jeroen Piket

KasparovChess Grand Prix finals,
02.19.2000

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6
5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 O-O
9. h3 Nb8 10. d4 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 Bb7 12.
Bc2 Re8 13. Nf1 Bf8 14. Ng3 c5 15. d5 c4
16. Bg5 Qc7 17. Qd2 Reb8



WHITE TO MOVE

Black's last move was an opening innovation. World champion Garry Kasparov responded **18. Nf5** and waited for a reply. And waited.

After a prolonged delay the arbiter contacted Black and found he was also waiting. There had been a break in the internet connection and 18. Nf5 never reached him.

This was played in the \$20,000 finals of the first prestigious on-line tournament. There were no agreed-upon rules of what to do in case of a technical malfunction.

Deep Junior, the world's best engine, was playing in this tournament when its Internet Service Provider crashed. Junior was forfeited.

But when the connection was lost in Kasparov versus Piket, the arbiter ruled that the game should be annulled. A new game began, from move one, the next day.

That touched off a furious controversy. What is the fair thing to do when a game cannot be continued? We haven't come up with a good answer and the rulings have been as contradictory as the Deep Junior and Kasparov games.

In the recent FIDE Online Olympiad (see Sam Shankland's article beginning on page 16 for more on this event ~ed.), Armenia forfeited a crucial game in the quarterfinals. India forfeited two games in the finals. In both cases it was due to a server outage that wasn't their fault. But Armenia was knocked out of the tournament (*they withdrew in protest* ~ed.) and India shared gold medals with Russia.

Before now technical delays were rare and due to major events, such as typhoons, and lesser acts of God, such as broken clocks. Arbiters made up chess law on the fly.

The 1978 World Championship match between GM Anatoly Karpov and GM Viktor Korchnoi set a record for worst weather, suffering 20 major storms and 22 inches of rain on a single day. As Karpov studied the board in the fifth game, Typhoon Emang knocked out power in the playing hall.

The chief arbiter, Lothar Schmid, quickly led Karpov away from the board and stopped the clocks. Schmid knew the game would be quickly resumed because the match organizer had anticipated a blackout by having a standby electrical generator on hand.

Power was restored within a minute and the game was eventually drawn, in a record 124

moves. The enterprising match organizer won praise for his foresight. Four years later he was elected president of FIDE. He was Florencio Campomanes.

Schmid knew what not to do in such a situation, because he was the arbiter when this happened:

SICILIAN DEFENSE, TAIMANOV VARIATION (B44)

GM Bobby Fischer

GM Tigran Petrosian

Candidate match finals (1), Buenos Aires,
09.30.1971

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6
5. Nb5 d6 6. Bf4 e5 7. Be3 Nf6 8. Bg5 Be6
9. N1c3 a6 10. Bxf6 gxf6 11. Na3 d5!! 12.
exd5 Bxa3 13. bxa3 Qa5 14. Qd2 O-O-O



WHITE TO MOVE

Fischer had won an astonishing 19 straight games against elite opponents. Petrosian hoped to stop him with his deeply prepared innovation 11. ... d5!! At this moment a blown fuse knocked out the main lights in the playing hall.

Schmid stopped the clocks. Petrosian stood up. But Fischer continued to study the position in the dim light. Petrosian demanded that he step away from the board. But Fischer said he was

QUIZ FOR NOVEMBER

This year marks the anniversary of another time when chess revived after a long, forced “pause.” The pause was World War II and the revival came in a 1945 10-board match between the United States and Soviet Union. The moves were transmitted by radiotelegraphy and the match was a stunning $15\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$ victory for the USSR. Remarkably, there were no glitches, just long delays in transmissions of the moves.

In each of the six diagrams you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. For solutions, see Page 59.

PROBLEM I.

Isaac Kashdan
Alexander Kotov



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM II.

Vasily Smyslov
Samuel Reshevsky



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM III.

Arnold Denker
Mikhail Botvinnik



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM IV.

Abraham Kupchik
Vladimir Makogonov



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM V.

Al Horowitz
Salo Flohr



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM VI.

Igor Bondarevsky
Herman Steiner



BLACK TO MOVE

willing to let his clock run. (During the plague of internet disconnects in 2020, some playing platforms allowed a game to continue if the clock of the disconnected player was allowed to run.)

Eleven minutes passed before the lights returned. Fischer blundered with **15. Bc4?** and was lost after **15. ... Rhg8 16. Rd1**.

But Petrosian was upset. He was not the “Iron Tigran” that he was purported to be. He forgot the winning 16. ... Rxc2! he had prepared. After 40 minutes he played **16. ... Bf5?** and eventually lost. Fischer’s streak extended to 20 wins.

What do we learn from incidents like this?

(1) *Sudden halts in play are more bearable if we know they won’t last long.*

During the next-to-last round of the 1966 U.S. Open, the players suddenly heard thunderous noise. More than 14,000 Beatles fans had packed into the nearby Seattle Center Coliseum to hear the Fab Four start their evening performance. IM Tony Saidy remembered how the tournament clocks were stopped for 20 minutes until, as expected, things quieted down.

(2) *Some players benefit from delays.*

When Petrosian resigned to GM Svetozar Gligoric in a Belgrade international tournament in 1954, there was such an emotional celebration by Gligoric’s hometown fans that the playing hall had to be cleared by police and the lights turned off. During the blackout, the other players in the tournament were allowed to analyze their

quasi-adjourned games. At least one of them figured out how to win an unclear position.

(3) *Quick resumption is often worse than adjournment.*

In 2011 Vladimir Kramnik was trying to regain his world championship title. He lost the first game of a blitz playoff in a Candidates match. This was a must-win game.

EQUIPMENT FAILURE

GM Vladimir Kramnik

GM Teimour Radjabov

Candidates match, Kazan, 05.09.2011



WHITE TO MOVE

Kramnik had a slight time edge, 25 seconds to Black’s 15 seconds, as the players blitzed out their moves in this drawish position.

The electronic clock couldn’t take the pounding. Suddenly it reset to zero.

“I didn’t know what to do,” Kramnik said afterward. He asked the arbiters for a ruling. But “nowhere was it specifically written what to do in such a situation.”

It took 13 minutes before the arbiters resumed play with a new clock. Kramnik appeared calm. Teimour Radjabov was anything but that.

He quickly fell into *zugzwang*: **61. Bc2 Rd4 62. Bb3 Be7 63. Bc4 Rd6 64. Kg2 Rd2+ 65. Kf3 Rd6 66. Ke4 Rd8? 67. Bd5 Rd6? 68. Rb7!**

Black has no good moves (68. ... Bf8?? 69. Rf7 mate).

The rest was **68. ... Rd8 69. Rxb6+ Rd6 70. Rb5 Bd8 71. Rb7 Be7 72. Ra7 Rb6 73. Rxa5 Rb4+ 74. Kf3 Rd4 75. Ra6+ Kg7 76. Be4 Rd6 77. Rxd6 Bxd6 78. a5 Bc5 79. a6 Kf6 80. Ke2, Black resigned.**

Today we have powerful engines that make any quasi-adjournment suspicious. But the alternatives often seem worse.

During the Magnus Carlsen International earlier this year, GM Alireza Firouzja was disconnected in a very favorable position against GM Hikaru Nakamura. It took so long to resume that the game became a diplomatic draw.

Firouzja, hailed as the “next Magnus Carlsen,” was evidently upset. He was unrecognizable in losing the next three games, one in 14 moves due to a mouse slip. ♠

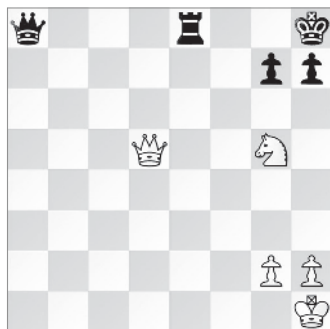
Finding the Big Move

When and how to look for it

By **GM LEV ALBURT** and **AL LAWRENCE**

IN THIS MONTH'S COLUMN, WE ARE sharing a position that both shows and tells. It shows you a lot about when to look for tactics and how to calculate them. And it can tell you a lot about your own play and where you can improve.

Start by pausing to evaluate the following position. (As you do, it will evaluate you.) Just note the main pluses and minuses of each side, and then go on to "concrete analysis"—move by move calculations. Take a few minutes before reading on.



WHITE TO MOVE

(By the way, if you already know the *abracadabra* White has in this position, go to the head of the class. But tag along with the rest of us. There's a lot more than a forced sequence of moves to learn from this position.)

MATERIAL ADVANTAGES

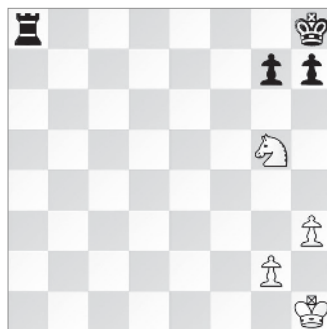
How did you tally the material? If you assigned memorized values to each piece and counted each side up, you're doing this the slow, hard way. We recommend "cancellation." You can see quickly that each side has a queen

that negates each other and two pawns that do the same, all a net zero. You're left with knight against rook—what chess annotators call being "up the Exchange."

THREATS

This position is all about tactics. White has a *weak back rank*, definitely a tactical disadvantage. If it were Black's move, even better than capturing White's queen would be giving back-rank mate with 1. ... Re1 mate.

White could play 1. Qxa8. Now Black's rook can't execute the mate because it's temporarily pinned. After Black recaptures with 1. ... Rxa8, White has time to make *luft*—German for "air"—for his king with 2. h3. As grim as the long fight ahead appears, White has eliminated the threat of an immediate mate.

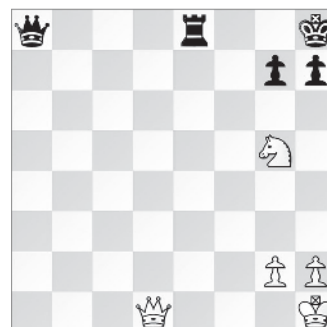


BLACK TO MOVE—FALLBACK POSITION #1

No more mate, but a tough struggle ahead for White.

This is our first *fallback position*. Keep it in mind in case our search finds nothing better.

Another defensive try protecting the back rank is 1. Qd1.

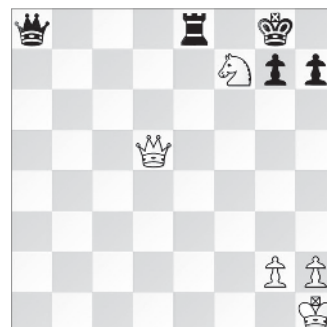


BLACK TO MOVE—FALLBACK POSITION #2: HOMEWORK FOR NEXT MONTH.

This could be fallback position #2. But let's set it aside for now. It offers disappointments, surprises, and tempting blunders all its own, and turns out to be a meaty training position. In preparation for next month's column, see what you can work out without computer help.

Before we begin to analyze and compare fallback positions, let's try to find something better. After all, queen plus knight is a very powerful attacking duo. We know we must begin with check. That's always an important clue.

1. Nf7+ Kg8 (Black's only legal move.)



WHITE TO MOVE
SUPPORT POSITION #1

Now our queen still hangs in the middle of the board, so we better have something good. A normal check doesn't work, for instance, 1. Nd6+? Qxd5. We must find a *double check*. We need to calculate a bit—to visualize the moves that could be played.

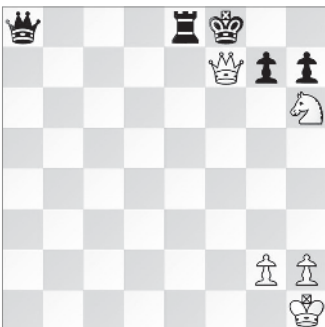
Clearer calculation comes with practice—and you can learn to become a good calculator. A helpful technique during an actual game is the use of *support positions*, what GM Andy Soltis calls “stepping stones.” Our first support position is the previous diagram. Visualize support positions very clearly, keeping them firmly in mind.

“How far should I see ahead?” The famous masters have come up with many cryptic answers. But Richard Reti is perhaps on record with the most provocative response: “One move! But always the right one!” Our suggestion is: *You need to calculate only as far as necessary, and not a half-move longer.*

2. Nh6+!

A powerful tactic! *Discovered, double check!* (It would more correctly be called “uncovered” double check.) Despite the fact that both (all) of White's pieces are hanging, neither can be taken because the other would still leave Black's king in check.

Now if Black chooses the blunder 2. ... Kf8?!, what happens? 3. Qf7 mate! When the enemy king is on the edge of the board, and our queen can move immediately in front of him and not be captured, that's checkmate.



ANALYSIS AFTER 3. Qf7 MATE.

Thus Black must choose his only other move.

2. ... Kh8



WHITE TO MOVE
NEW FALLBACK POSITION

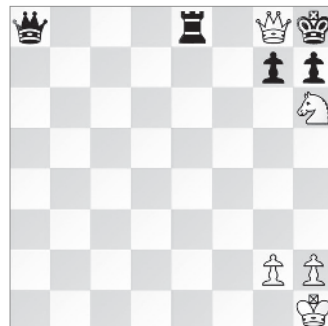
Now we should notice that we can repeat the position by moving our knight back and forth from h6 to f7, making a draw by perpetual check. The position after 2. ... Kh8 thus becomes our new and favorite *fallback position*. As long as we can return to it, we're safe from losing, free to achieve an outcome better than our material disadvantage might suggest. At this point, we can ignore the previous fallback positions, which offer only a worse position for White.

We might see only this far. At such a “turnaround” moment in any game—seeing a way out of what appeared to be an impending loss—it's tempting to grab the opportunity to get out of the game with our skin. But resist such immediate reactions!

After making the move 2. Nh6+! and seeing the response 2. ... Kh8, stop! Re-check the positions you've already analyzed in your mind. Take time for a good look. There's no hurry. You can always make the draw by perpetual. But there may be something better!

If our creative juices are flowing, or we've seen the idea before, we could find a bold and beautiful finisher!

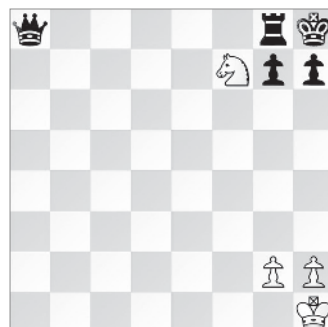
3. Qg8+!!



BLACK TO MOVE

Black can't take with the king, since he'd be in check from White's knight. So ...

3. ... Rxc8, allowing 4. Nf7 mate!.



AFTER 4. Nf7 MATE

This is the famous *smothered mate* position. White mates with his last piece. Black's heavy artillery looks on abjectly. All the while, it's

been mate-in-one *against* White! (If only Black wasn't always in check!)

If you see this sequence for the first time, and it doesn't inspire a quick intake of breath and a broad grin if not a giggle, perhaps you should find another hobby! This is the logic, poetry, and explosive surprise of chess condensed into three moves.

So far in this position, we've looked at *counting material, weak back rank, back-rank mate, fallback position, discovered check, double check, support position, and smothered mate*.

Keep the initial position in your mind. Play over the variations living in our initial position until you can recall them all without notes. You can even go to the Al Lawrence YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/outexcel> and see GM Lev explain the key ideas in three short video lessons. Then teach all this to one of your friends. We know first-hand that you never learn as much about something until you teach it. ♠

Did you know you could read archival copies of “Back to Basics” (and all other columns and features)? Go to uschess.org click on “Chess Life Magazine,” and then “Archives.”

SEND IN YOUR GAMES!

If you are unrated or rated 1799 or below, then GM Lev Alburt and Al Lawrence invite you to send your most instructive game with notes to:

Back to Basics, c/o Chess Life
PO Box 3967
Crossville, TN 38557-3967

Or e-mail your material to

backtobasics@uschess.org

GM Alburt and Al Lawrence will select the “most instructive” game and *Chess Life* will award an autographed copy of Lev's newest book, *Carlsen vs. Karjakin* (by Lev Alburt and Jon Crumiller), to the person submitting the most instructive game and notes.

Make sure your game (or part of it) and your notes will be of interest to other readers. Writing skills are a plus, but instructiveness is a must!

You're Invited



STRATEGY ACROSS THE BOARD:

Advancing Saint Louis Through the Artistic,
Cultural, and Educational Value of Chess

Join us Virtually on
Tuesday, December 1, 2020, from 6:30-8 p.m.

To learn more about the event and to register in advance,
please visit 2020satb.givesmart.com.

**Special Thanks to our
Presenting Sponsors:**

Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld
& Rex Sinquefeld

Edward Jones[®]



Saint Louis
CHESS CLUB

SaintLouisChessClub.org



WorldChessHOF.org



KEITH RADIANT GAMBIT HARING



On View November 19, 2020–May 16, 2021



@worldchesshof #HaringChess

Keith Haring: Radiant Gambit features artwork by Haring, a world-renowned pop artist known for his art that proliferated in the New York subway system during the 1980s. The exhibition includes a never-before-seen private collection of Haring's works and photographs of the artist, bespoke street art chess sets from Purling London and newly-commissioned pieces by Saint Louis artists, all paying homage to the late pop culture icon.

Visit worldchesshof.org for more information and to learn about our safety procedures.



Single Source Travelling Exhibition
organized by: Pan Art Connections Inc.
www.pan-art-connections.com

Images: Vilac, **Keith Haring Chess Set**, 2019, Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, Photo by Austin Fuller; Keith Haring artwork copyright © Keith Haring Foundation.

Team USA Falls in FIDE Online Olympiad Semi-Finals

Russia and India share gold
in controversial final.

By GM SAM SHANKLAND



Coming into the 2020 FIDE Online Olympiad, held from July 24-August 30, I had no clue what to expect. In my previous three Olympiads, my pre-tournament routine was the same as most others. I would arrive at the playing site a few days early, get accustomed to the time change, rest up, and prepare a bit for the event. For the 2016 and 2018 editions, I was joined in Baku and Tbilisi, respectively, by GM Ray Robson and team coach GM Alex Lenderman, and we would try to make sure that we were on our best possible form.

With the COVID-19 situation causing global upheaval, this year I was not expecting there to be an Olympiad at all. And while the online version isn't quite the same thing, especially considering that there will supposedly be a "real" Olympiad again next year, it was still an important event and I was every bit as motivated to bring my best for Team USA.

My first task was getting accustomed to the time control. I've almost exclusively trained to be the best classical player I can be for many years, as I believe that classical chess is chess, and that it is the most important time control to master. I've had some notable successes in classical play, including winning the U.S. Championship in 2018 and reaching a rank of 22nd in the world. But I never was able to reach the same level at rapid chess, and while I am working very hard on my rapid play, I knew that the time control would present a huge challenge.

I've always felt that traveling to events helps me play better—some level of discomfort and unfamiliarity makes it feel more serious, like I am on the road to fight, not at home to relax. Here, the only trip I took was the 10-second walk from my bedroom to my training room. So I made it a point to keep to my normal tournament routine as much as possible, even though I was staying at home. Despite having easy food delivery options and my own kitchen, I ate the same bowl of nonfat Greek yogurt mixed with low sugar granola along with a half banana, exactly 90 minutes before the rounds were scheduled to start.

Bracketing the fact that we were competing online, the tournament format was unlike any Olympiad I had ever played before. With different countries playing from all over the world, there was no way to have everyone competing at one set time. This is why the tournament was broken into stages, with the top teams from each stage qualifying to the next one. As one of the top finishing teams at the previous Olympiad, the U.S. was seeded in the final stage preceding the quarterfinals. We were placed in Division D and faced a three-day schedule with three games each day.

The team makeup was unusual as well. In normal times, an Open Olympiad and a Women's Olympiad run concurrently, and a Junior Olympiad is played at a different time. Here all of the Olympiads were combined into one event! Each team was to field six players in each match, with two open players, two women, one junior, and one junior girl. Reserves were also allowed. The American roster included a total of eight players: GMs Wesley So, Ray Robson, and me for the open slots; IMs Carissa Yip, Anna Zatonskih, and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan for the women's slots; and GM Jeffery Xiong and IM Annie Wang for the junior positions. Of my seven teammates, I had only ever played on a team with two of them before!

Thankfully our team chemistry was great, due in no small part to the leadership of our team captain IM John Donaldson. Despite not often playing on teams with each other before, the whole team knew each other well, attending many of the same tournaments and chess camps over the years, even across the (small) generational gaps. We got along great and had several remote Zoom meetings before the start of the event, discussing preparation, fundraising, and organizational issues. Sometimes in team events it can feel like six separate individual games are being played. Not here.

The tournament started well enough for Team USA, although it not without some drama on my end. Twenty minutes before the start of the first round, I received an urgent email from

my homeowner's association (HOA) alerting me that there was a leak coming from my downstairs bathroom, damaging the ceiling of the carport underneath, and leaking onto the car parked there!

It wasn't a massive issue, but one that still had to be addressed right away, and meanwhile I had to play my game. I frantically called both the HOA groundskeeper and my father, let them know about the situation, left my door unlocked, and started playing. In the middle of the game, I could hear noises coming from the bathroom, and trusted that everything was in good hands.

My first game of the tournament was probably my most interesting one. But it was badly misplayed at several moments, as can be expected in rapid, and both sides missed a lot of chances.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, TAIMANOV VARIATION (B48)

GM Antonios Pavlidis (2543)

GM Sam Shankland (2691)

2020 FIDE Online Olympiad Division D (1.3), 08.21.2020

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6

With all of the commotion going on downstairs as well as an unexpected pairing, I did realize that I was playing the Taimanov against a guy who just wrote a book on it! Thankfully, I managed to survive the opening in one piece.

5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Nxc6 Qxc6 8. Be2 b5 9. Bf3 Bb7 10. O-O Qc7 11. Re1 Bd6 12. g3 Nf6 13. Bd4 e5 14. Be3 h6

Another idea is 14. ... 0-0 as there was no need to prevent Be3-g5. After 15. Bg5 b4! White is still unable to get his knight to the d5 square.

15. a4 b4 16. Nd5 Nxd5 17. exd5 O-O



This is exactly the kind of fascinating position that rapid chess simply cannot do justice to. White has a powerful continuation that secures a clear advantage, but it is difficult to find. Difficult, but certainly doable for a strong player in a slow game. But with no time, forget about it.

18. Qd2

White could have secured a nice advantage

by immediately pushing 18. a5! without bothering to playing Qd1–d2 first. I was not at all worried about this move during the game, but my intended best response—18. ... Rac8—had a flaw. At this point, we can see why White wanted his queen on d2—it makes it easier to defend his c2 pawn with Rec1. Now, 19. Rac1 would drop the a5–pawn, and 19. Re2 leaves the rook on a very awkward square after the natural ... f7–f5, when White's bishops look very shaky. But White has a very powerful idea: 19. c3! bxc3 20. bxc3 and White is clearly better with an invasion on the b-file coming. After the natural 20. ... Qxc3 21. Qb1! Black must lose a tempo on his bishop, and after 21. ... Ba8 22. Qf5! and it's all over but the crying as mating threats loom large.

18. ... f5!

Now Black has a lot of counterplay.

19. a5 Rac8 20. Rec1 e4 21. Bb6 Qb8 22. Bg2 Rce8 23. Re1 Re5! 24. Rad1 Rxd5



Black has won a key central pawn, and should easily win the game if he could consolidate. In a classical game I would expect to still have a fair amount of time on move 25, and to win routinely. But in rapid, not so much!

25. Qe2 Rxd1 26. Rxd1 Rf6 27. Bd4 Rf7 28. Qc4 Bf8 29. Be5



29. ... d6?

I should have played 29. ... Qd8! when White cannot prevent ... d7–d5. Black should win.

30. Bf1!

A powerful resource. Of course the bishop

is immune to capture thanks to the d1–rook's ability to come to d7.

30. ... Qc7 31. Bf4

I had calculated up to this point when I had played 29. ... d6, and thought that I should routinely win with 31. ... g5 followed by 32. ... d5. Unfortunately I missed a nasty resource.

31. ... g5 32. Bxd6! Bxd6 33. Qe6!

Black is facing massive threats, and the g5–pawn no longer being on g7 will prove to be his undoing.

33. ... Bc8!

I found the only move. 33. ... Bf8 falls to 34. Bc4! when the threat of Rd1–d7 compels 34. ... Bc8. But now, since Black's pawn is on g5 instead of g7, White has a better move than resigning. 35. Qg6+! Bg7 36. Bxf7+ Qxf7 37. Rd8+ and White wins.

34. Qxd6 Kh7?

Now I am definitely lost, but with the clocks so low, I was able to make some counterplay. Black should survive after 34. ... Qxd6! 35. Rxd6 Rc7.

35. Bxa6 Bxa6 36. Qxa6 e3!

The best try. If your position is bad, confuse your opponent!

37. fxe3?

With the clocks ticking down, my opponent missed the win. 37. Rd6! exf2+ 38. Kf1! would have won for White.

37. ... Qxc2 38. Rd6 Qc1+ 39. Kf2 Qxb2+ 40. Kg1 Qc1+ 41. Kf2 Qc2+ 42. Kg1 Qb1+ 43. Kf2 f4 44. exf4 gxf4 45. Qd3+ Qxd3 46. Rxd3 fxg3+ 47. Kxg3 Ra7 48. Rb3 Rxa5 49. Rxb4, Draw agreed.

The game turned out to be largely irrelevant, as the rest of the team did very well to put away our Greek counterparts. I never would have guessed that this match would be our most important one. The Greek team ended up finishing second in the division!

I was able to sit out round two to deal with the plumbing problem, and came back to win a nice game in round three. The team was cruising along very nicely. Making her Olympiad debut, Carissa Yip really got on a roll, winning four games in a row to start the event. This was my favorite.

GIUOCO PIANO (C53)

IM Carissa Yip (2421)

IM Lisandra Teresa Ordaz Valdes (2369)

2020 FIDE Online Olympiad Division D (5.1), 08.22.2020

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Bc5 5. c3 Nf6 6. e5

Through a somewhat unusual move order. Carissa has taken the game into one of the modern mainlines of the Italian. She really put on a clinic for how to handle the resulting pawn structures.

6. ... d5 7. Bb5 Ne4 8. cxd4 Bb6 9. O–O O–O 10. Nc3 Bg4 11. Be3 f6 12. exf6 Nxc3 13. bxc3 Qxf6 14. Be2 Rae8

At first glance, the position looks pretty dry, and it seems that Black should be totally fine due to her active pieces and general lack of weaknesses. But White is not without ideas, and Carissa showed them very nicely.

15. h3 Bxf3?

Black makes her first mistake in ceding the bishop pair. There was nothing wrong with ducking the bishop back with 15. ... Bh5 when Black looks okay.

16. Bxf3 Ne7 17. Qd2 c6



Black's plan is clear enough. She will play ... Ne7–f5 next, challenging the e3 bishop, who will struggle to avoid being exchanged. Once this happens and White's bishop pair advantage is gone, Black will certainly be fine. Carissa found the best path forward.

18. Bh5!

An excellent decision. White provokes the g7–pawn forwards.

18. ... Ng6?

The knight will be misplaced here. Black should have tried 18. ... g6 but after 19. Bg4 Nf5 20. Bg5! we see the point. White's bishop is much more secure on g5 now that Black's pawn has been pushed up to g6—there will never be any ... h7–h6 advances to worry about.

19. Rab1!

Another strong move. White prevents Black from rerouting the blunted b6–bishop to the more active c7–square.

19. ... Qd6 20. Rfe1

I would not have minded playing prophylactically with 20. g3, once again preventing ... Bb6–c7 from coming. Carissa's move is fine too of course.



WGM JENNIFER YU TALKS WITH IMS AND OLYMPIANS CARISSA YIP AND ANNIE WANG AT THE 2019 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP.

20. ... Bc7 21. g3 b5**22. Bg5!**

Another good decision. Once all of the rooks come off, White's light square bishop will become very dangerous.

22. ... Re4

According to the machine, 22. ... Qd7 was a better option, but after something like 23. Rxe8 Rxe8 24. Re1 I would be very worried about Bh5-g4 coming next.

23. Rxe4 dxe4 24. Bd1!

A clever regrouping. The bishop did its job on h5, provoking Black's knight to the dreadful g6 square, and now that the knight is no longer pinned, the bishop can transfer to the c2 square.

24. ... h6 25. Be3 Kh7 26. Bc2 Qe6

I started watching the game at this moment, and I was worried. White's position looks very difficult—Black is ready for some combination of ... Rf8-f3, ... Ng6-h4, and a mating attack is on the way. Carissa found the best way once more.

27. Kg2! Rf3 28. Rh1!

White overprotects the h3-pawn, preventing ... Ng6-h4+ from coming. The position looks passive, but it is only temporary. White is ready for Qd2-e2 next, threatening Bc2xe4 and expelling the active rook. Black can hardly do anything about it.

28. ... Rf8 29. Qd1!

The queen is on the way to g4.

29. ... Kh8 30. Qg4 Qxg4 31. hxg4 Ne7

Saving the e4-pawn would not have changed

the result. After 31. ... Re8 32. g5 White easily wins after crashing through on the kingside.

32. Bxe4 Kg8 33. Rb1 a6 34. g5 Nd5 35. Bxd5+ cxd5 36. gxh6 gxh6 37. Bxh6 Rc8 38. Bd2 Ba5 39. Re1 Rc6 40. g4 Bc7 41. g5 Kf7 42. Rh1 Kg7 43. Rh6 Rg6 44. Kf3 Bd8 45. Rxg6+ Kxg6 46. Kg4 a5 47. f4 Be7 48. f5+ Kf7 49. f6 Bf8 50. Kf5, Black resigned.

After the first two days of the group stage, we had won all six of our matches. The last day was a bit more stressful as we dropped a match to Poland, but a draw with Peru and a win over Canada clinched us our place in the quarterfinals against Ukraine.

Coming into the Ukraine match, I knew that I had a big challenge ahead of me. Their second board, GM Anton Korobov, is a real rapid specialist, and while I would think I'd be a clear favorite against him in classical, rapid time controls are another matter. Luckily my recent work paid off.

I had published an opening repertoire on the website *Chessable.com* on the Semi-Slav some months back, and using my analysis, I was able to drop a really nasty novelty on Korobov, reaching a winning position. But once again, the rapid time control meant that the quality dropped and a chance was missed.

SEMI-SLAV, MERAN VARIATION (D45)

GM Anton Korobov (2688)

GM Sam Shankland (2691)

2020 FIDE Online Olympiad Quarterfinal (2.41), 08.28.2020

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. e3 c6 4. c4 e6 5. Nc3 Nbd7 6. Qc2 Bd6 7. Bd3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 O-O 9. O-O b5 10. Be2 Bb7 11. e4 e5 12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Nh4 g6 14. f4 Neg4 15. g3 Bc5+ 16. Kh1 b4 17. Nd1 Bd4 18. Bf3 c5 19. e5?!

I think this is a little inaccurate and gives Black some extra options. More challenging is 19. Qg2 but after 19. ... Qd7 20. h3 Black has the same idea as in the game: 20. ... h5!, which would transpose after 21. e5 Nd5.

19. ... Nd5 20. Qg2 Qd7 21. h3**21. ... h5!**

This is a novelty. Surprising as it is to give up a piece here, White will not be able to keep the long diagonal closed.

22. hxg4 hxg4 23. Be4

If White's bishop were forced off the e4-square, he would face a disaster along the long diagonal. Black has an energetic way to make this happen.

23. ... f5! 24. exf6 e.p. Rae8!

The threat of 25. ... Rxe4 is absurdly powerful.

25. Kh2 Rxf6

I knew that Black was winning here from my preparation, and the computer, which is almost never wrong in direct positions such as these, confirmed my assessment. Now I navigated my advantage to a point, but could not find the final touch under such short time constraints.

26. Nf2 g5!

Black plays with maximal energy.

27. fxg5!

Certainly the best practical try. 27. Nxg4 briefly concerned me before I saw the strong reply 27. ... Rxe4! when White is busted. For example, after 28. Qxe4 Qxg4 the h4-knight is all but trapped, when ... Re6-e2 is on the way, and White will never be able to use his a1-rook or c1-bishop. Time to resign.

27. ... Rxf2 28. Rxf2 Bxf2 29. Qxf2

Trying to save the e4-bishop before taking on f2 with 29. Bf5? might be tempting, but after 29. ... Qb5! White cannot stop a rook from landing on e2, and he can comfortably resign.

29. ... Rxe4 30. Bd2

I had already burned a fair amount of time on the previous few moves, and was down to eight minutes or so for the rest of the game. The winning move here is difficult, but far from impossible to find in a classical game; in rapid, however, it proved a bridge too far. White is ready to play Ra1-e1 next against almost anything Black can try, reaching a defensible position. So what is the breakthrough?

30. ... Qe6?

I missed my chance.

Finding 30. ... Nf4!! would have put the cherry on top of a great game. The point is that Black is threatening ... Re4-e2. White cannot respond with Ra1-e1 on pain of ... Nf4-d3, and as things stand the knight cannot be captured by either the bishop or the pawn. If 31. Bxf4 (31. gxf4 Qd3! and White will be crushed on the h3 square.) 31. ... Qe8!! is the final touch. Now that the bishop has left d2, White cannot play Ra1-e1, and as such, cannot prevent ... Re4-e2 finishing the game. Note that 31. ...



GM ALEXANDER GRISCHUK



GM RAY ROBSON



GM JEFFERY XIONG



GM WESLEY SO

Qe6? looks very tempting, but fails to achieve the desired goal. The point is that if the queen does not stay on e8 to cover the back rank, White gets enough counterplay to hang on: 32. Rd1! Re2 33. Rd8+ Kg7 34. Be5+!! Qxe5 35. Rd7+ and Black cannot escape the checks on the seventh and eighth ranks.

31. Re1 Rxe1 32. Qxe1 Qxe1 33. Bxe1 c4

Black is a little better in this endgame, but White should hold without a ton of trouble.

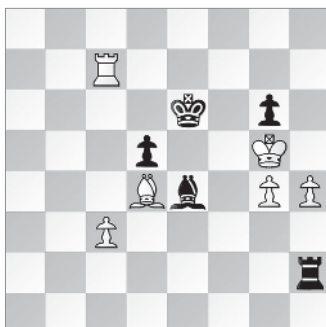
34. Nf5 c3 35. bxc3 bxc3 36. Nh6+ Kh7 37. Nxg4 Kg6 38. Nf2 Ba6 39. Nh3 c2 40. Bd2 Nb4 41. Nf4+ Kf5 42. g4+ Ke4 43. a3 Na2 44. g6 Bc4 45. g7 c1=Q 46. Bxc1 Nxc1 47. Ng6 Nd3 48. Kg3 Ne5 49. Ne7 a5 50. g8=Q Bxg8 51. Nxg8 Nc4 52. a4 Nb6 53. Ne7 Nxa4 54. Nc6 Nc5 55. Nxa5 Nd7 56. g5 Kf5 57. g6 Kxg6, draw.

Painful as this miss was, the team played very well and won the first of the two semifinal matches. I redeemed myself for my missed chance by winning nicely in the second game with the white pieces, and the rest of the team followed suit, giving us a clear win over Ukraine. Wesley seemed to be on great form, beating both Korobov and GM Vasyl Ivanchuk to score a clean 2-0 over a very strong team. The biggest challenge was still ahead: we had to play Russia the next morning.

The Russian top seeds were certainly having a good event, and their squad was packed with super elite players who also seem to excel at rapid play. In the first game, I found myself facing GM Daniil Dubov, a very creative player who “only” ever made it to 2700 or so in classical, but was once World Rapid Champion. I played a really great game, but with the U.S. down 3-2, I had one of the worst oversights in my life in the waning moments.

TIME TROUBLES (C11)

GM Sam Shankland (2691)
GM Daniil Dubov (2699)
2020 FIDE Online Olympiad Semifinal
(3.21), 08.29.2020

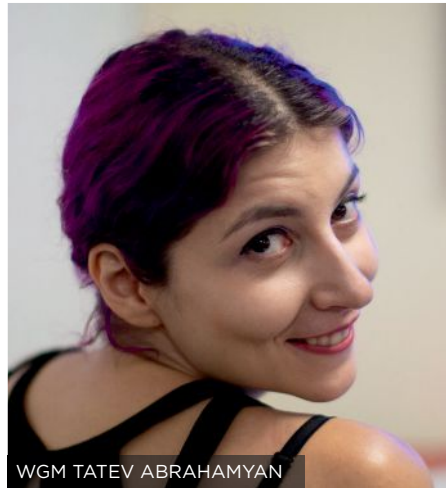


WHITE TO MOVE

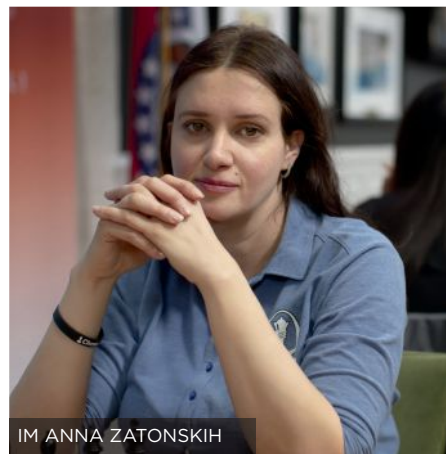
I had cleanly outplayed my opponent up to this point, and White should be routinely winning in this endgame. A good start is finding an immediate checkmate.

40. Bc5!

White secures the d6-square and is ready for Rc7-e7 next, giving mate. Black desperately tried pitching a pawn to give his king some breathing room.



WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



IM ANNA ZATONSKII

40. ... d4 41. Re7+?!

One of the ‘benefits’ of essentially playing on the increment. This is not a huge mistake as White is still routinely winning—he takes a second pawn and cuts Black’s king off from the kingside. But the first mistake is the one that makes the win harder. White should take over the d5 square once again with 41. c4 and there is nothing to be done about mate next move.

41. ... Kd5 42. Bxd4 Bd3 43. Re5+ Kc4 44. Re3 Rg2 45. Kf4 Rh2 46. Kg5 Rg2 47. Rf3 Be2 48. Rf4 Kd5 49. Bf2 Kc6 50. c4 Bd3 51. c5 Be2 52. Bd4 Kd5 53. Be3 Kc6 54. Kxg6 Bxg4 55. Rf6+ Kd5 56. Rd6+ Ke4 57. Bg5 Bf5+ 58. Kf6 Rf2 59. Kg7 Ke5 60. Rf6 Rc2 61. c6 Be4

Despite missing the mate in two, I did a fine job closing out the game while playing on a five second increment, but with just a few seconds, disaster struck.

62. c7??

Of course checking first with 62. Bf4+ wins routinely. White gets c6-c7 next and Black can resign.

62. ... Rxc7+

Check! And there’s no time for the skewer with the bishop. Now the game is drawn.

63. Rf7. Draw agreed.

This was a very tough pill for me to swallow, and worse, I had to play again some 15 minutes later! At Captain Donaldson’s suggestion, I did some pushups to try to blow off some steam. Alas, it was to no avail.

In the final round, I blundered away another (nearly) winning position against GM Ian Nepomniachtchi. This proved to be the critical half point lost, as the team drew the match overall. It was especially painful to see the brilliant wins that Jeffery Xiong and Wesley So produced in the final round go to waste due to my own difficulties. I particularly liked Jeffery’s fighting spirit, showing the kind of tenacious resourcefulness in bad positions that makes him such a tremendous rapid player.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E32)

GM Jeffery Xiong (2709)
GM Andrey Esipenko (2682)
2020 FIDE Online Olympiad Semifinal
(3.22), 08.29.2020

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 O-O 5. e4 d5 6. e5 Ne4 7. Bd3 c5 8. Nf3 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Nd7 10. Bf4 Qh4 11. g3 Qh5 12. h4 Nxe5 13. Be2 Ng4 14. Bxg4 Qxg4 15. f3 Qh5 16. g4 Qg6 17. fxe4 e5 18. O-O-O Bxc3 19. Nf5 Bxf5 20. gxf5 Qa6 21. Qxc3 d4 22. Qb3 exf4 23. Rxd4 Rad8 24. Qd3 Rxd4 25. Qxd4 Rc8



Something went badly wrong in the opening for Jeffery and his position looks really bad. The white king is quite weak, Black’s f4-pawn can become quite dangerous at any moment, and the White position is full of weaknesses. I can’t imagine saving this in a classical game, but in rapid, Jeffery got the job done. In the end, he won in fine style, showing exactly how to handle such situations.

26. b3!

Saving the right pawn. Black would have a much easier task if White has saved the a2-pawn instead. After 26. Kb1 Qxc4 White's odds of saving this rook endgame are approximately zero.

26. ... Qxa2 27. Rd1 g6 28. f6!

The computer really does not care for this move, but in practice, I think it is definitely the best decision. Black is technically winning, and the only way White will save the game is if Black messes it up. Giving him things to worry about, like back rank mates, is a good way to entice a mistake.

28. ... h5 29. Rd3!

Another good move, defending the b3-pawn and preventing the ... f4-f3 advance. The computer hates it, but it makes Black's winning task much more difficult. I would expect Esipenko to easily win this position in a classical game, but rapid is a different story.

29. ... Qg2?

A very understandable move. Black wants to play ... f4-f3-f2-f1. What could be more natural? But now Jeffery sets his plan in motion. The machine points out that 29. ... Re8! wins routinely. The point is that White is not able to force the rook into passivity with Qd4-d7, as it will be able to take on e4 instead of relocating to a bad square on the back rank.

30. Qd7! Rf8 31. Qe7!

All of a sudden, thanks to White playing 28. f6, the weak back rank is a real cause of concern for Black. Now Qe7xf8+ is a huge threat.

31. ... Qg1+ 32. Kc2 Qb6 33. Rd6!

White hits the queen with a gain of tempo. She must stay in touch with the d8-square to prevent Qe7xf8+ ending the game.

33. ... Qa5 34. Rd5! Qb6 35. Rd6 Qa5 36. Rd5 Qb6 37. Rg5!

Declining the draw. White is ready for 38. Rxc6+ next, and Black is in a bad way. Esipenko could have saved the game with a long sequence of computer moves, but he is only human.

37. ... Qf2+

According to the machines, 37. ... Rc8!! is the only move that holds. I won't pretend to understand the reason why, or any of the resulting variations.

38. Kb1 Qe1+ 39. Ka2 Qd2+ 40. Ka3!

White's king moves up the board, and soon the checks run out.

40. ... Qc1+ 41. Ka4 Qa1+ 42. Kb4 Qe1+**43. Kb5! a6+ 44. Kb6 Qe3+ 45. Kc7**

No more checks—game over. A great practical effort from Jeffery.

45. ... Qc3 46. Rxc6+ Kh7 47. Rg7+ Kh6 48. Qxf8 Qe5+ 49. Qd6, Black resigned.

Wesley's final round win over GM Alexander Grischuk was an absolute marvel to behold.

GIUOCO PIANO (C53)

GM Wesley So (2770)

GM Alexander Grischuk (2777)

2020 FIDE Online Olympiad Semifinal
(3.22), 08.29.2020

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6
5. d3 d6 6. O-O O-O 7. Re1 a5 8. h3 Ba7
9. Bb3 h6 10. Nbd2 Be6 11. Bc2 Re8 12.
Nf1 d5 13. exd5 Bxd5 14. Ng3 Qd6 15. Nf5
Qd7 16. N3h4 Ne7 17. Rxe5 Nxf5 18. Rxf5
Qe6 19. d4 Qe1+ 20. Kh2 c5



White is a pawn up, but Black's activity is through the roof. Black's last move not only pressures White's center, but also creates the subtle threat of ... Ba7-b8+ at any moment, putting White's king in serious peril. Despite the enormous pressure on White's position, Wesley flawlessly navigated his way through the complications and found the best move.

21. Bxh6!

Let the tactics fly.

21. ... Bb8+

If 21. ... Qxd1 22. Rxd1 gxh6 it turns out that taking the bishop doesn't help Black, as his knight is hanging.

22. Bf4!

Another good move. White's pieces all seem very loose, but Black cannot take them. 22. g3!? is also plausible.

22. ... Qxd1 23. Rxd1 Be6 24. Rxf6!

The rook was done for anyway, so White should at least cripple the kingside structure.

24. ... gxf6 25. Bxb8 Raxb8 26. d5! Bd7 27. Rd2!

White has two pawns for the Exchange, and

two very good ones at that, but the main reason his position is so good is the f5-square. Once White exchanges off the bishops, plants his knight on f5, secures it with g4, and advances d5-d6, will the knight be any worse than one of Black's rooks? I don't think so!

27. ... b5 28. Bf5 Rbd8 29. Bxd7 Rxd7 30. Nf5 Kh7 31. g4

White is strategically winning. The Black rooks look pretty but can't do anything effective, while the f5-knight is the boss of the board.

31. ... Re4 32. Kg3 b4 33. d6 bxc3 34. bxc3 Rc4 35. Rd3 Ra4 36. Re3!

The rook comes to e7 for the decisive final invasion.

36. ... Rd8 37. Re7 Rc4 38. Rxf7+ Kg8 39. Rxf6 Rxc3+ 40. Kh4 c4 41. g5 Rd3 42. g6 Rf8 43. Kg5 c3 44. Ne7+ Kg7 45. Nf5+ Kg8 46. Rxf8+ Kxf8 47. Kf6 Rxd6+ 48. Nxd6 c2 49. g7+ Kg8 50. Nf5 c1=Q 51. Ne7+, Black resigned.

A truly brilliant game, start to finish.

This painful match brought Team USA's run at the 2020 FIDE Online Olympiad to a close. And then ... well, things got weird.

The final match between Russia and India was declared drawn when a major internet issue left a lot of India without internet access for several hours. FIDE declared the teams joint winners rather than forcing some of the Indian players to forfeit their games in the middle. There was a similar issue for the Armenian team in the quarterfinals, who quit the tournament in protest when one of their players lost on time in a drawn position after losing his connection to the server.

I think FIDE did a fine job with this tournament and made the very best of an unpleasant pandemic situation. Still, the Online Olympiad cannot replace the "real" Olympiad, whose return I eagerly await once the state of the world is in a better place.

Between connection issues, some cheating incidents and disqualifications in the early rounds, time changes forcing players to play at unusual hours, mouse slips, and last but not least, the very fast time control and degradation of quality of play, I believe that the chess world badly needs face-to-face tournaments back. Until then, we are fortunate to be able to play events like these. While I produced several good games, I really wish I could have played better on the final day.

To Wesley, Ray, Jeffery, Anna, Tatev, Carissa, and Annie: it was an honor to play alongside you all. You were the best teammates I ever could have asked for, and if we ever have another mixed gender/age team event, online or over the board, I'd love to play alongside you again. ♠



MASTER CLASS: Analyzing Your Games with Engines

GM JACOB AAGAARD, SAINT LOUIS 2019

Killer tips from an elite chess writer and trainer

By **GM JACOB AAGAARD**

It is a truism repeated by many of the world's greatest players: the analysis of one's own games is a certain path to improvement. (GM Alex Yermolinsky even wrote a whole book on the topic, *The Road to Chess Improvement*.) And they were right.

There are of course many ways to improve your game. Mark Dvoretsky used to say that "training" was the most effective, which means solving lots of exercises. In my experience these two methods—game analysis and solving exercises—along with opening preparation are the main methods of chess improvement. Often players, even the very top players, will prefer

one or two of these methods of improvement and neglect the third.

Each of these improvement methods have their own challenges. In this article we shall look at the art of analyzing your own games with an engine. But before we move on to the engine part, let's talk about what we should do before we turn on the machine.

The limitations of the engine are not immediately obvious, as the machine has a hypnotic effect that leads to people turning their brains off the moment they press Alt+F2 to turn on the engine. Here is a snapshot of those limitations:

PHOTO: ERIC ROSEN

The Limitations of Engine Analysis

- The engine does not explain why a move is good.
- The engine does not focus on the variations we need to see in order to make a decision during the game.
- The engines are hardly ever wrong, but in a wonderful Minority Report kind of way, they often disagree with one another.
- The engines have horizons. They will give you one evaluation at the root move, and when you put the suggested moves on the board, they will give you another. (This is known in the literature as the 'horizon effect.' ~ed.)
- The engines do not have any sense of practicality.

My recommendation has for a long time been to approach your own games in the following way.

How to Analyze Your Own Games

1. Have a post-mortem or a chat with your opponent after the game ends. Everyone did this when I was growing up. But just yesterday IM Andrew Greet told me that when he lost to GM Fabiano Caruana at the 2016 Olympiad, the U.S. number one greedily agreed to analyze the game, telling Andrew that it had been two years since anyone had agreed to discuss the game afterwards with him. (Note: at the moment where many tournaments are online, this forgotten ritual is virtually impossible. Pun intended.)
2. Put the game into ChessBase and put in all the things you were thinking about, or talked about with your opponent, after the game. It is too soon to turn off the engine! You want to make sure that you keep the flow of human ideas open for as long as possible.
3. Analyze your game with the engine after the tournament. It is the last part we are going to talk about a bit in this article.

Let's start with the obvious.

INTERMEZZO

Before we move on, you will get the most out of this article if you try to solve these four positions. White is to move in all of them. In the first three he has to win, and in the fourth he has to survive. Positions one and four are very tricky, while positions two and three are more friendly.

An important note is that while positions two and three follow from position one, it does not mean that you should try to find a path from one to the others. This attempt to game the system will not give you the results you wish for.

Exercise 1:



WHITE TO MOVE

Exercise 2:



WHITE TO MOVE

Exercise 3:



WHITE TO MOVE

Exercise 4:



WHITE TO MOVE

WHAT THE COMPUTER TELLS YOU IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY

Stockfish may tell you that only one position is playable in a given position. But if you sit with the same position at the board, you may think that five moves look reasonable ... or that none do! I have one-move exercises in my files that GM Sam Shankland and other top players have routinely failed to solve. Naturally Stockfish sees the moves immediately, every time. What it cannot do is tell you if a grandmaster would have seen them immediately too, or if it would have been challenging.

Not that it stops most engine users from deeming themselves omniscient! I will avoid talking about the number of times I have witnessed spectators — real weakies, as was said in the old American vernacular according to my editor — berating grandmasters for not finding the (so-called) 'obvious' computer moves. I will also not mention the number of

times people have said this kind of thing to my face. People shooting off their mouths is nothing new.

To try to illustrate the difficulties in learning to use the engine well, I want to show you a fascinating game from one of the training camps we had this summer. I was introduced to many strong American juniors in these online camps, making it quite fitting that I publish this article in the national magazine of US Chess.

I have chosen this particular game for a number of reasons. First of all, Jason Lu had annotated the game for a class assignment reasonably well and put real effort into it. The omissions are thus presented here as an illustration for the scope for improvement and not meant as criticism at all. It's also for this reason that I have chosen a game where the student won. If this is the first time you will see your name in a big magazine, it is infinitely preferable to be on the winning side. Finally,

the game is really interesting, although in all honesty, most games are if you dig deep and try to understand what is really happening in them.

The two key moments in this game are on moves 19 and 33.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, SCHEVENINGEN VARIATION (B83)

Brewington Hardaway (2217)

Jason Lu (2170)

Marshall Chess Club Championship (5),
12.10.2019

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e6 7. a4 Be7 8. O-O O-O
9. Be3 Qc7 10. f4 b6 11. Bf3 Bb7 12. Qe1
Nc6 13. Kh1 Nb4?



A small positional mistake. Black is wanting to play ... d6-d5, but he leaves White too much freedom in the center to build an attack.

The right reaction was 13. ... Nxd4! 14. Bxd4 e5. After 15. Be3, I would intuitively go for 15. ... b5!?, but looking in the database I found the following forgotten gem: 15. ... Bc6!?



A nice flexible move. After 16. g4? White does not have full development and thus cannot justify this reaction. Play continued:

16. ... Qb7 17. Bd2 d5! (This was the start of a sweeping annihilation of the greatest Indonesian player of all time.) 18. exd5 Nxd5 19. Qxe5 Rad8!? (19. ... Bf6! 20. Qe2 Nxc3 21. bxc3 Rad8 and Black has a big advantage) 20. Nxd5 Rxd5 21. Bxd5 Bxd5+ 22. Kg1 Qd7 23. Qf5 Bc5+ 24. Rf2 Qd6!? (24. ... Qc6!) 25. Re1? (White cracks under the pressure. 25. Qd3! was right, with an unclear position.)



25. ... Bb7! 26. Be3 Re8! 27. Qd3 Qxd3
28. cxd3 Rxe3 29. Rd1 Bf3, White resigned.
Utut Adianto-GM Jim Tarjan, Jakarta 1983.

14. Qg3 Rfe8?

Jason did not like this move, as it weakens the defense of the f7-pawn. As we shall soon see, this is more than hypothetical.

Jason did not investigate the outcome of 14. ... d5 15. e5 Ne4, which I guess was his plan. After 16. Bxe4 dxe4 17. f5 it must have been clear to him during the game that things were not going well. Black can of course play 15. ... Nd7, but this was not what he wanted with 13. ... Nb4, so we shall just say that White is much better.

14. ... Nd7!? could be a possible move, anticipating the e4-e5 break. White should be better. As the knight has abandoned the control of the d5-square, it is logical to play 15. f5!?, but also bringing in the rook from d1 seems logical. Here play can soon become sharp: 15. ... e5 16. Nde2 Rfc8 (or 16. ... Nxc2!? 17. Bh6 Bf6 18. Rac1 Kh8 19. Bd2 b5! 20. Rxc2 b4 21. Rfc1 bxc3 22. Nxc3) 17. Rac1 Bc6! and White does not appear to be better at all.

15. Rae1 Rad8?

A very natural move made probably without too much thinking.

Stockfish suggests that 15. ... Rf8!? is the best option for Black here. I do not think anyone, besides GM Lev Polugaevsky, has ever been brave enough to admit their mistake in this way.



16. e5!

White strikes in the center.

16. ... dxe5

It is undesirable to open the f-line, but after 16. ... Nfd5 17. Nxd5 Nxd5 18. f5! tremendous anarchy is unleashed, with a morbid ending awaiting Black.

17. fxe5 Nfd5

Stockfish is interested in 17. ... Bxf3!?, but humans know that while the position after 18. exf6 Qxg3 19. hxg3 Bxf6 20. Nxf3 may be "objectively" better than the game continuation, White has no real chance to go wrong and should convert the extra piece without showing too much muscle. Curiously Leela agrees.

18. Bh5!

A nice attacking move. White could also have moved forward a bit less energetically without ruining anything with: 18. Bh6!? g6 19. Ne4 and Black is subject to a strong attack.

18. ... g6 19. Nxe6!

Jason explained that he had completely missed this move.

19. Rxf7 Bh4! he had seen. The complications are certainly going wrong for White then, although he is not yet worse.



AFTER 19. Nxe6

This is our first moment of interest.

19. ... Bh4!

"The only move," declared Jason in his annotations. The computer confirmed that this is indeed the highest rated move. But was it the most practical choice? At this point Black admits defeat, gives up a pawn, and hopes for the opponent to make mistakes later. In the game the strategy was successful, but all who succeed in laying a simple trap would do well to remember this: if your opponent fell for this trick, he might as well have been defeated with sound moves too.

In order to determine if Jason's move was indeed the best practical decision, we would have to analyze the game. Jason had provided no variations as a justification of the correctness of White's sacrifice. Not doubting the kid, I decided to check out the variations and quickly found them to be anything but straightforward.

The critical defensive try is **19. ... fxe6** 20. **Bxg6 Nxe3!**. Note that 20. ... hxc6 21. Qxg6+ and 22. Rf7 clearly does not work. Neither does 20. ... Bh4 21. Bf7+! Kh8 22. Qxh4, i.e. 22. ... Nxe3 23. Qf6 mate.



AFTER 20. ... Nxe3! (ANALYSIS)
EXERCISE 1

When you look at the position with an engine, you will get overwhelmed with win after win for White. But when you put the position on the board and have to find a win on your own, suddenly things are far less obvious. I asked the students both in the online camp (including Jason) and those at my online academy, www.killerchesstraining.com, to try and find a win. Many strong players, including IMs and GMs, were involved in this process. They went through more than a few blind paths before coming up with a winning line.

(a) **21. Bxh7+** looks incredibly tempting. But after **21. ... Kh8** there is no win. **22. Rf7?** was everyone's first choice, but after **22. ... Bxg2+ 23. Kg1**



23. ... Nf5! 24. Bxf5 Bc5+ 25. Kxg2 Qxf7 and Black wins. This line may seem elementary, but it took us a long time to come up with it on our own. And that's the point.

(b) We also tried **21. Rf7 Bxg2+ 22. Kg1**, but once again Black escapes: **22. ... Nf5! 23. Qxg2 Bc5+ 24. Kh1 Qxf7 25. Bxf7+ Kxf7**



JASON LU

with an unclear position where White has to play very energetically in order to keep the balance.

(c) Another venomous idea was discovered in **21. Rxe3**, where Black escapes only through fabulous defense:

21. ... Rf8! 22. Bxh7+ Kh8 23. Bf5!



Now the paths diverge.

(c1) **23. ... exf5?**

This is evaluated as equal with Stockfish at first, but when you put the moves on the board and expand the horizon of the machine, it turns out that White has a winning attack:

24. Qh3+ Kg7 25. Rg3+ Kf7 26. e6+!
A typical attacking move, opening lines.
26. ... Kxe6 27. Re1+



Here there are three alternatives:

(c11) **27. ... Qe5 28. Rxe5+ Kxe5 29. Re3+ Kd6 30. Qh6+ Rf6 31. Qf4+ Kd7** and White presses on.

(c12) **27. ... Kd7**



EXERCISE 2

28. Rxe7+! Kxe7 29. Rg7+ Rf7 30. Rxf7+ Kxf7 31. Qh7+ winning the queen is a nice tactic in its own right.
(c13) **27. ... Kd6 28. Qh6+ Bf6**



EXERCISE 3

29. Nb5+!! is not something you will discover if you do not investigate the position.
29. ... axb5 30. Qf4+ Kc6 31. axb5+ and White wins the queen.

(c2) **23. ... Rd4!!**

The rook transfers to h4, to aid in the defense.

24. Ne2 Bh4!

White would have a winning attack after 24. ... Rh4 25. Nf4!.

25. Qg6 Rxf5 26. Rxf5 Rd1+ 27. Ng1

Black still looks lost, but is saved by a recurring tactic.



27. ... Bxg2+!! 28. Kxg2

Play is unclear — read 0.00 — after 28. Qxg2 exf5 29. Rh3 Qc4.

28. ... Qxc2+ 29. Kh1 Qxf5 30. Qh6+ Qh7 31. Qf8+ Qg8 32. Qh6+ with a draw.

(d) **21. Bxe8+**

This is the “official” win. Stockfish gives it a score of about plus a million, but finding the moves is anything but easy.

21. ... Kh8 22. Rxe3

22. Rf7 once again fails to 22. ... Bxg2+ 23. Kg1 Nf5, when 24. Rxh7+ Kxh7 25. Qg6+ only offers White a perpetual check. However, at this point a draw is not a bad outcome.

22. ... Rxe8 23. Rf7

White’s position may look promising here, but things are not simple yet.

23. ... Rg8



The counterplay against g2 is real. In order to rely on this variation, you will have to have seen that White is winning after:

24. Rxh7+! Kxh7 25. Qh3+ Kg7

If 25. ... Kg6 26. Qxe6+ wins.

26. Rg3+ Kf8 27. Qh6+!

Another key move that has to have been anticipated.

27. ... Ke8 28. Rxg8+ Kd7 29. Qg6

White wins. One line is:

29. ... Bd8 30. Qe8+ Kc8 31. Qxe6+ Qd7 32. Qxd7+ Kxd7 33. e6+

And White wins another piece, making the conversion elementary.

(e) **21. Be4+!**

This is the human move. Rather than relying on long variations where the “hit rate” is unacceptable, the key point is that all counterplay against the g2-square is eliminated. Black cannot play 21. ... Kh8 on account of 22. Rf7 when mate looms. Black thus has to return the piece immediately.

21. ... Bg5

The moment you see that Black has to play this, you know that 21. Be4+ is strong. But in order to do this, you have to think of returning the bishop with a discovered check, and only to e4. This will seem quite obvious to you now, once it has been explained, but it was very difficult for my students to find the move and it took a long time before someone suggested it.

22. Qxg5+ Qg7 23. Qxg7+

Surely you saw 23. Qxe3? Nxc2!, but I note it for completeness.

23. ... Kxg7 24. Rxe3

White has a winning endgame. One little point is that **24. ... Bxe4** is met with **25. Nxe4!** bringing the remaining piece decisively into the game. Again, analysis could always continue, but one key aspect of working with engines is to know when to stop feeding the beast.

Back to the game.

20. Qxh4 Rxe6 21. Nxd5

A devastating attack on the dark squares with 21. Bg5!? Rde8 22. Bf3 was also winning, but White’s play in the game is very logical.

21. ... Nxd5 22. Bg4 Nxe3



White missed his chance to win the game. And what a chance it was!

23. Rxe3??

Here White has 23. Rxf7!! Qxf7 (After 23. ... Kxf7 24. Qxh7+ Ke8 Jason gave the computer variation 25. Qg8+ Ke7 26. Qxe6+, which is obviously totally winning. But a human analysis of the position would reveal 25. Qxc7, which is also completely winning and practical to boot.) 24. Bxe6 Qxe6 25. Qxd8+ with a winning position.

23. ... Rd4! 24. Qg3 Qc4 25. Be2 Qxc2 26. Qf2

Jason evaluates the position very maturely: “The engine says the position is equal, but in practice, Black is better.” This is accurate. The white pawns are divided and weak. The active play White has to display to equalize is hard to come up with, especially when he knows he has blown a winning attack.

26. ... Qc7 27. Rc3 Qd7 28. Bc4?

Just a blunder.

28. ... Rd2 29. Be2 Rxe5 30. Re3 Rf5 31. Qe1 Rg5 32. Rf2 Rxb2?

This looks obvious, but it too is a blunder.

Jason points out that 32. ... Qd4 was winning for Black. We do not need variations here. There are other winning moves too.



EXERCISE 4

33. Qc1?

But what Jason does not point out is that the saving variation for White is virtually impossible to find.

33. Bg4!

The first move is not too hard to find, but

soon it gets trickier.

33. ... Rxf2 34. Bxd7 Rgxg2!

Black is not out of bullets.

35. Re8+

Black wins after 35. Qxf2? Rg3+.

35. ... Kg7 36. Qc3+!

The accurate move order. 36. Bc6?! gives Black the extra option of playing 36. ... Rxh2+ before transposing to our main line.

36. ... Rf6



White's situation seems desperate, so desperate defense is needed!

37. Bc6!! Bxc6

37. ... Rc2 38. Qxf6+ is an immediate draw.

38. Rg8+ Kxg8 39. Qxf6 Rc2+

Another immediate draw is found after 39. ... Bb7 40. Qd8+ Kg7 41. Qd4+ Kh6 42. Qh4+.

40. Kg1 Rc4 41. Qd8+ Kg7 42. Qxb6 Bxa4 43. Qb2+ Kh6 44. Qa3!



White has enough counterplay to make the draw. The key point is that the black king is not allowed to hide in peace behind the pawns, but is harassed, making it hard to coordinate to advance of the a-pawn, for example. If Black were able to put the bishop on e6, the pawn on h5, the king on h7 and the rook on a2, it would be curtains.

33. ... Qd2

Finally, Black is cruising to victory.

34. Re8+ Kg7 35. Qf1 Bd5 36. Re7 Rf5 37. Rxf5 gxf5 38. h3 Be4 39. Rxe4 fxe4 40. Qf5 Rb1+ 41. Kh2 Qd6+ 42. g3 Qc5 43. Qg4+ Kh8 44. Bd1 Qf2+ 45. Kh1 Qf1+ 46. Kh2 Rb2+ 47. Be2 Rxe2+ 48. Qxe2 Qxe2+ 49. Kh1 Qd2 50. a5 e3 51. axb6 e2 52. b7 e1=Q, mate.



BREWINGTON HARDAWAY

SUMMARY

The first point is probably the easiest to make, but also the most important to understand. We should not believe computer evaluations without understanding them. The test for this is easy: can you explain to another person why it is winning? Jason was rightly scared of his opponent's attack, but once he had to show how his opponent could inflict real damage, he could not. Doing so took a team of talents more than half an hour to accomplish.

As you will probably also have noticed in this game, there is a tendency for us to give lots and lots of long variations when we are analyzing with the computer. We should remember that we would rarely be able to produce these variations without silicon support. Therefore, when we analyze with a computer, we should look for variations that we believe it would be possible for us to see, in order to say that a variation is winning.

Learning from the computer requires that we translate the information we get from the machine into something humans can comprehend. This task is easier if you base it on a foundation of understanding, but that is a discussion for another time. ♠



Worth *the* Wait

Walter Tevis' 1983 novel, *The Queen's Gambit*, has finally hit the (small) screen as a Netflix limited series.

BRUCE PANDOLFINI brings us the story, from start to finish.

After some 38 years, Walter Tevis' novel *The Queen's Gambit*, a coming of age drama about Beth Harmon, an orphaned Kentucky girl who surmounts addiction and sexism to climb to the top of the chess pantheon, has made it to the (small) screen. Created by renowned director/screenwriter Scott Frank, the seven-part Netflix production is, as you read these words, viewable by chess fans around the globe. Playing the lead role of Beth is Anya Taylor-Joy, who headed the cast in the recent remake of Jane Austen's *Emma*.

Paralleling Beth's fictional travails, the novel has gone on its own

journey. Originally published by Random House in 1983, there was initial interest in developing a screenplay, but it waned after the author's death a year later. Notable directors and actors thereafter considered the possibility of doing it on film, but nothing ever quite panned out. The project continued to waver even after screenwriter and producer Allan Scott, probably best known for his work with director Nicolas Roeg on *Don't Look Now*, purchased the rights from Walter's widow Eleanora in 1992. Mr. Scott eventually hooked up with Scott Frank, who created "Godless," and William Horberg, who



produced *Searching for Bobby Fischer*. The triumvirate of Scott, Frank, and Horberg were then able to bring “The Queen’s Gambit” to visual reality under the Netflix umbrella.

Filmed mainly in Berlin, with a few scenes shot in Toronto, the series manages to convey the look and feel of local and international tournament chess in the 1960s. Whether the setting is Kentucky, Cincinnati, Las Vegas, Mexico City, Paris, or Moscow, it’s all depicted realistically and vividly by the camera of cinematographer Steven Meizler, the sets of Uli Hanisch, and the costumes of Gabriele Binder. Editor Michelle Tesoro impeccably weaves it together, with the original score of composer Carlos Rafael Rivera, supported by pop, jazz, and classical selections, all breezily accompanying the seven episodes. Certain aspects of tournament interplay and ambience were informed by the input of former world chess champion Garry Kasparov. He consulted with director Scott Frank on competitive milieus and joined me in creating some chess games, especially the climactic last round thriller.

Anya Taylor-Joy’s portrayal of lead character Beth Harmon is superb. She captures the tortuous complications of chess at the highest levels, while never missing an emotional beat. Overcoming abandonment

and isolation, addictive drugs and alcohol, confused and confusing relationships, fierce rivalries and the highs and lows of competition, she emerges as a paladin of strength and courage to inspire everyone. She is compelling in every scene.

The supporting cast includes Marielle Heller as Beth’s adoptive mother, a woman who must cope with her husband’s neglect and indifference; Thomas Brodie-Sangster as Benny Watts (somewhat like Bobby Fischer, but with a few twists); Moses Ingram as Beth’s fellow orphan, who shares much of her early and later trials; Harry Melling, a Kentucky competitor who befriends and romances Beth, helping her through dark days (Harry Potter fans will recognize him as Dudley Dursley); and veteran all-pro actor Bill Camp as Mr. Shaibel, the janitor who introduces Beth to chess, the elixir of life. Praise must also go to Isla Johnston who plays the young Beth. She does so with the perceptive intelligence of a chess prodigy.

It has been a long road, but “The Queen’s Gambit” is finally here. Netflix released the full seven episodes on October 23, meaning that many of our readers will already have “binged it” before this issue hits their mailboxes.



BRUCE PANDOLFINI INSTRUCTS VLAD CHIRIAC (LEONID SHAPKIN IN THE LIMITED SERIES) ON THE FINER POINTS OF THE POSITION.

How I got to consult on the novel *The Queen's Gambit*

Little did I realize, when called into Random House headquarters in the late summer of 1982, that I was about to become involved in a project that would take almost 38 years to complete. Having read a manuscript written by novelist/screenwriter Walter Tevis about an eight-year-old orphan girl who goes on to become a super chess player, I of course was excited. Walter and several editors at Random House were interested in my thoughts on it. I told them I loved the novel, but not all the chess moves were quite right. Some of them didn't make sense, and chess players might complain. Anne Freedgood, Walter's main editor, wondered if I could help make them less "complainable."

Walter Tevis was not happy with that possibility. A chess player himself, he felt he didn't need any help. Any changes might destroy the narrative and literary quality of the work. I also sensed he was put off by my fee. Nevertheless, I understood his feelings and the conversation came to a dead end. As we were saying goodbye, for reasons I can't explain, I threw out what I thought the title should be. Something about that was music to their ears. Anne asked me to stay a bit longer. After

thirty minutes of further talk, I was hired as a consultant for what would now be called *The Queen's Gambit*.

I met with Walter eight to ten times at his brownstone in Manhattan. We went over every chess reference, I came up with improvements for each questionable one, and Walter seemingly accepted most of them. When it was all done, he thanked me for my recommendations, which he planned to incorporate. It was a wonderful experience.

As it happens, Walter was also a first-rate teacher. During that month of meetings, he read some of my own pieces and offered advice I still find useful. Afterwards, we exchanged a couple of friendly letters. He even talked about taking chess lessons. But that would not be. Within a year, Walter Tevis became ill and died.

Sometime after the novel was published in 1983, I read it again. I was dumbstruck. Except for a few trivial changes, I couldn't find a single one of my major suggestions. Walter had given me a nice credit in his acknowledgements. Yet the only thing I really did for the book was to come up with the final title.

In Conversation: Director, Screenwriter, and Producer Scott Frank

Interview by BRUCE PANDOLFINI



SCOTT FRANK

Scott Frank was the screenwriter, director, and executive producer (along with Allan Scott and William Horberg) of “The Queen’s Gambit” Netflix series. In an exclusive interview for *Chess Life*, he shares his thoughts and insights on this challenging project.

When did you first learn about the novel *The Queen’s Gambit*?

Bill Horberg told me about it sometime in the mid-1990s. Bill and I have been friends ever since he joined Paramount as an executive, now some 30 years, and he introduced me in that time to Charles Willeford, Chester Himes, and Walter Tevis, among many others.

You’ve written wonderful screenplays for the movies. *Dead Again*, *Little Man Tate*, *Out of Sight*, *Minority Report*, *Get Shorty*, and *Logan* are all films that benefited from your masterful writing. What was it about the Tevis novel that intrigued you enough to write a script based on it?

It read like a good thriller, with a protagonist I’d never seen before at the center of it. Beth Harmon was unique to my experience. But the theme of the “cost of genius” was something I’d been playing with since *Little Man Tate*. And the fascinating thing about the book is one need not know a whit about chess to be thoroughly engrossed in the storytelling. It’s a testament to Tevis’ power as a writer.

Did you pretty much stay with the original storyline? Or were significant changes necessary for filming purposes?

The storyline is basically the same. I’ve added some things with regards to Beth’s birth mother and her adoptive mother. The first to provide foreshadowing as to where Beth may end up, and the latter to give the story slightly more emotional breadth. I’ve also deepened her relationships with the three men in the story. But these all amount to a lot of very small changes or adjustments. The Tevis story holds up in both shape and tone.

With sequences of abstract chess moves embedded in the text, how hard was it to adapt Tevis’s writing into an intelligible but entertaining screenplay?

I pretended that no one watching knew anything about chess. I would ask myself, how much do they need to know in a given situation in order to appreciate the drama? I would try to serve up that information and no more. I also treated each match or tournament as a character. I spent a lot of time in the script making one feel different from the other and contextualizing each one in terms of how they may affect Beth’s life.

Later, when we shot the tournaments, we carried on with this idea of making each chess game specific and special. If we show the board, we want it to be both accurate, but visually and audibly pleasing. So there was a lot of thought about how to shoot each one and how each one would sound. There are many instances throughout the story where we stay on the faces of the actors and never see the board. All of the drama, having hopefully been set up right beforehand, plays out on their faces. These matches are as thrilling as any of the more detailed matches. I’m thinking in particular of the adjournment Beth plays with the young boy in Mexico City.

My conversations with our other consultant, Garry Kasparov, provided a deep background for the STAKES in each of these tournaments. Not just for the Russian players, but for Beth, who shared their desperate need to win or literally have nothing. Some of the dialogue came from Garry—specifically, the scene in the elevator where she overhears them speaking about her. This inspired me to write the payoff scene at the press conference where he realizes she had understood every word.

Both you and Garry designed the major games. The final game in Russia, was I believe Garry’s design. But all through it, I either had you or the German chess coaches on set to make sure EVERYONE looked authentic, and the moves and positions reflected the drama and proper chess play/progression.

In 2017 you brought to television the critically acclaimed seven-part “*Godless*,” for which you were the creator, executive producer, and director. You wear the same three hats for “*The Queen’s Gambit*.” How did your experience with “*Godless*” help you in making this new series?

I was prepared for the endurance I’d need, both mental and physical. I also knew I had to meticulously plan the production ahead of time, so that the actors wouldn’t feel pressured during the chess scenes. They were learning the moves as we shot. And if I weren’t prepared and had to find a shooting style on the go, it would have been frustrating. So to that end, I felt like we were very well prepared.

A key element of that preparation: we had a “chess summit” where you and our German chess experts discussed the reality of each tournament, what the boards and pieces and clocks and displays might look like, and that gave me tons of terminology to use. The production designer, cinematographer, prop master, and the editor all took part. It was an enormous help.

During filming, it was clear that you have a real interest in chess. I’d see you playing with different people on set, including cinematographer Steven Meizler, and both of you seemed passionate about it. When did you first get interested in chess and what was it about the game that appealed to you?

I learned how to play chess from a neighborhood friend when I was about eight or nine. Later, when I was a teenager, it was a great way for my father and me to have something to do together. My parents were friends with the son of Irving Chernev. My father read his



BETH HARMON PLAYS BENNY WATTS IN A CRITICAL GAME AT THE 1966 U.S. OPEN.



BETH TAKES A BIG STEP FORWARD IN 1967.

PHOTO, TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF NETFLIX; TOP RIGHT & BOTTOM LEFT: PHIL BRAY/NETFLIX; BOTTOM RIGHT: CHARLIE GRAY/NETFLIX



BETH HARMON AND BENNY WATTS, U.S. OPEN, 1966.



BETH PLAYS THE WHITE SIDE OF A FRENCH MC CUTCHEON IN PARIS, 1967.

books and used to joke about how his game actually got worse. We would play these epic games that went on forever. I actually made a beautiful chess board in my high school wood shop and we would play on that.

What appealed most to me is the complexity in having to think ahead and think about all of the permutations of what might happen as the result of a given move. That's storytelling! Each game is its own story. And that's what Walter Tevis discovered, too, I think.

It's the most beautiful game there is. The most frustrating sometimes, but also the most beautiful. And you never stop learning it.

Casting is crucial to cinematic success. Anya Taylor-Joy does a fantastic job playing the main character. She gets all kinds of nuances right and is totally convincing. How did you go about casting the principal roles and especially Anya?

I work with the world's greatest casting director, Ellen Lewis. She has always brought me actors I'd not been familiar with, or actors I'd dismissed for the wrong reasons. The actors are everything for me. Working with them in a scene is my favorite part of production. Because, when you have great actors, they make what I've written so much better. I call it the one plus one equals three theory.

I knew that for the role of Beth, I'd need three actors, but the bulk of the movie will be "owned" by one of them. And that actor has to have a face you can't take your eyes off, has to convey intensity, anger, intelligence, as well as a kind of evolving glamour. That narrowed it down for me to Anya Taylor-Joy. She was my first, second, third, and fourth choice for the role. If she had said no, I don't know what I would have done.

Isla Johnston, the actress who plays the younger Beth, is also quite excellent. I think you made a great choice. Did you consider the possibility of casting a practiced tournament player for that role?

We did consider that. And I think you even sent me some terrific kids to look at. But ultimately the "thing" that Isla has, this intensity and physical control, proved so undeniable, that I figured she could learn the chess. And learn she did. A very smart cookie and a future star. Thank God she has lovely parents!

When Tevis wrote The Queen's Gambit in 1983 the idea of an eight or nine year old girl eventually becoming the best chess player in the world was visionary. But these days it is entirely plausible. What influence do you think your series, and Anya's performance, will have on the empowerment of women and girls?

I hope that it has two influences. First, I hope it encourages young girls to ignore anyone of any gender who tells them they can't do something. Only the universe can tell us what we can and can't do. We get that message eventually, but only after we've given our attempt at whatever a thousand percent. Beth ignored everyone who said she "can't." That part of Beth is a wonderful role model. Second, I hope we see, not just a lot more girls, but a lot more people playing chess.

It's the most beautiful game there is. The most frustrating sometimes, but also the most beautiful. And you never stop learning it.

I know you were determined to get things chessically right. But with any film venture, entertainment is paramount. What were some of the things you did to make the chess abstractions visually more enjoyable?

I think this goes back to making each game its own "character." Once I started from there, it was about trying to find fun/different ways to show the game, and to see how LITTLE of each game we could get away with. Also, I spent a lot of time casting "faces" for her opponents. People who felt very specific and not all just like the stereotypical "nerd" chess player. I know lots of very cool chess players! But it was fun to play with that trope.

"The Queen's Gambit" has superbly designed sets and tournament scenes. Almost all of it was filmed in Berlin. Why Berlin?

Berlin turned out to be a great hub. As you know, the story takes place in many locations, among them: Lexington, Kentucky; New York City; Las Vegas; Cincinnati; Ohio University; Mexico City; Paris; and Moscow. We could do almost all of the interiors in Berlin. Even pieces of the exteriors. We found all sorts of buildings that worked for places like a Las Vegas Hotel or a Mexico City Hotel. Paris and Moscow were easy to find in Berlin. But outside of the city we found tons of great locations for rural Kentucky. We shot for five days in Toronto, mostly to get the Lexington suburban street Beth lived on, her high school, and exteriors for the U.S. Championships at Ohio University and the car accident.

I know from my own work for Walter Tevis that it was his intention not to mention Bobby Fischer. The series also does not mention Fischer. Do you have any doubts about that decision?

It didn't even occur to me. I thought it was far more interesting mentioning all of the players who had come BEFORE Fischer. Also, not mentioning him gave me a bit more help in creating a world that's specific to our story.

Principal photography on "The Queen's Gambit" was completed before COVID-19 messed up our world. How did the pandemic impact post-production?

We ended up doing a good portion of it remotely. I was in my home in Connecticut. The editor was in her apartment in Chelsea. The music and sound editors were also in New York. The sound designer was in Topanga Canyon (Los Angeles). Through new technology, I could be on the screen watching the editor and working with her. We could review visual effects shots and color timing and do most everything this way. I actually liked it because it gave me more time to write in between sessions with the editor. Whereas, if I'm in the cutting room with her, and I gave her something to try that might take a while, I'd go off, eat a snack, surf the web, do anything but write, as the office is too "busy."

What about the future? How do you see filmmaking adapting to the possibility of future epidemics?

I wish I knew. I think everyone is trying. But until we have a real vaccine, I'm not sure this way of working is tenable.

Now that the making of "The Queen's Gambit" has come to an end, is there anything you wish you had done differently?

I have a list of moments I missed or didn't direct as well as I might have, or shots I could have done better, but all in all, once something is done, those things begin to fade in my mind. The piece becomes the piece. There have only been a couple of times where I wished that I could back in and recut the whole damn thing.

Did you have a favorite moment in the entire project?

My favorite moment in the show is the same as my favorite moment in the book: the very last scene.

Do you have any personal chess ambitions from here on?

Yes! I want you to be my teacher!!!

*“I never knew when Garry would call,
or what distant part of the planet he was calling from.
But he always had some delightful chess treat to share.”*

KASPAROV'S BRILLIANT INVENTION 41. ... h5 GETS ITS 15 MINUTES OF FAME IN AN ON-SCREEN CLOSEUP.

The Chess Moves

THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT has a lot of real chess in it. About 350 unique positions were adapted or created for the series. These positions were needed not only for scenes with the principals, but as an aspect of the atmosphere, even for actors not necessarily on camera.

Initially, I came up with 92 positions to correspond to essential script situations. That block was called “The Bible.” Many of those appear in the final cut.

There were six to eight key positions that had to be framed perfectly, including the game for the tension-filled last scene, as well as the penultimate battle with Luchenko (see next column). Garry Kasparov came aboard and infused his special genius into workable ideas for these critical moments. We reviewed his chosen games together and finalized them.

Truly, it was great fun. I never knew when Garry would call, or what distant part of the planet he was calling from. But he always had some delightful chess treat to share. Most of Garry's setups were left inviolate, but filmmaking has its own flow, and there were last minute adjustments to meet emergent needs on the set.

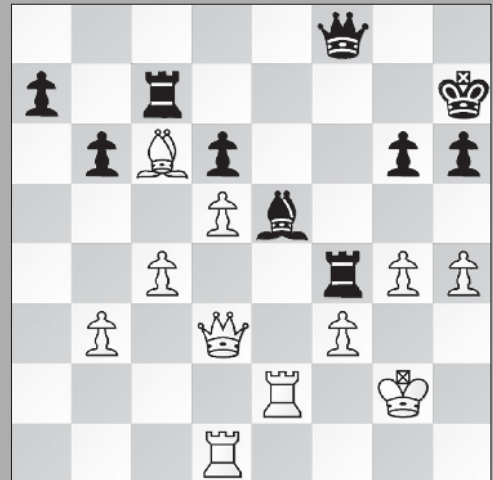
Special commendation must go to our German chess/tech crew, John Paul Atkinson and Iepe Rubingh (who sadly passed away in May 2020). Both were indispensable. Along with myself and Garry, their efforts are very much a part of the chess you see.

It wouldn't be an article for *Chess Life* without a chess diagram. So here's how an example of a real game was modified to fit the dramatic situation. The basis for Beth's battle with former world champion Dimitri Luchenko comes from a 1988 battle between GM Arshak Petrosian and GM Vladimir Akopian in Yerevan. Garry's focus was on the position after White's 38th move.

Here Akopian (playing Black; see diagram to the right) doubled his rooks with 38. ... Rcf7, and the game was soon drawn. As we analyzed, Garry had an ingenious idea for Black, one that provided just the drama we needed for a critical moment in the narrative. Note: we had to renumber the moves to begin with Black's 41st move for filming purposes, as part of the plot revolves around the game's being adjourned.

DEFEATING LUCHENKO

Dimitri Luchenko
Beth Harmon
Moscow, 1968




BLACK TO MOVE

41. ... h5! 42. gxh5 Kh8! 43. hxg6 Rxh4 44.
Rh1 Rch7! 45. Rg1

If 45. gxh7? mate is unavoidable after 45. ... Qg7+.

45. ... R7h5 46. Kf1 Kg7 47. Bd7 Rd4 48. Qe3 Rd1+
49. Re1 Bd4, White resigned.

There is only one Garry Kasparov.

A close-up photograph of Anya Taylor-Joy as Beth Harmon. She has short, wavy, reddish-brown hair and is wearing a dark, high-necked turtleneck sweater. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious, intense expression. Her right hand is raised to her face, with her fingers resting near her temple. In the foreground, a chessboard with several chess pieces is visible, though slightly out of focus. The background is a softly blurred interior space with a window and some furniture.

“Playing Beth is something I’ll never forget. The deeper I dove into the role, the clearer the similarities between my passion and chess became. Both require a singular focus, a hunger to grow, and an unwavering determination. As someone who did not have a great understanding of the complexities of the game before I started, I very quickly became enamored with it. The joy I felt in being able to execute and understand the sequences, particularly when speed chess was involved, was second to none.”

—ANYA TAYLOR-JOY ON STARRING IN “THE QUEEN’S GAMBIT”

Producer William Horberg on “The Queen’s Gambit”



ANYA TAYLOR-JOY AND WILLIAM HORBERG ON SET

Producer William Horberg, a chairman of the Producers Guild of America, has a long list of prestigious honors to his credit. As it turns out, he and I share a common link. We are the only ones who were involved with both *Searching for Bobby Fischer* and “The Queen’s Gambit.” Here he offers a few discerning remarks on his work, life and the game of chess.

What attracted him to both chess projects

With both *Searching for Bobby Fischer* and “The Queen’s Gambit,” I fell in love with the story and the characters first, and then I found the milieu of the world of chess and chess players that YOU introduced me to so fascinating.

Comparing the two productions

Searching for Bobby Fischer was obviously a true story, a memoir, and it was really a family story about parenting and competition among children. And while “The Queen’s Gambit” is a work of fiction, like all of Tevis’ writing, it has so much truth in it. He is really able to make a page-turner out of this young girl’s coming of age story, and the chess and her addictions and life struggles really mirror each other in such a unique and interesting way.

What was emphasized

No one is going to watch a movie about chess. But they will watch a movie about people: people who are obsessed, who are vulnerable and confused, who are curious, who are competitive, who are exploring their identity, their sexuality, and their sanity!!

Concerns chess might be viewed as too esoteric

Are you kidding? We were scared to death! We thought the audience would feel like they were watching paint dry!! But fear is a great motivator, and Scott and his team found a way to shoot the chess where each game has a point in her story, and some emotional meaning as well, and he found so much variety in how to dramatize the matches. Still, we were shocked when we cut it together and started to show it to friends how much they really got caught up in the excitement of the games. It was one of their favorite aspects of the show. A lot of credit goes to our wonderful editor Michelle Tesoro. We could finally let our breath out.

On when he first considered filming “The Queen’s Gambit”

I would say it was almost 20 years ago. The author Michael Ondaatje turned me on to the book. He said it was one of his favorites, which was a great motivation to read it. I got hooked, and when I tried to track down the rights, lo and behold, it turned out to be owned by an old friend of mine, a screenwriter and producer named Allan Scott with whom I had worked on a TV series many years earlier. He had his own long history of trying to get the

book made as a movie, and we joined forces. But it was really Scott Frank who had the vision of telling the story as a limited series that finally unlocked the puzzle, and Netflix was the perfect home for this show. We just had to wait for the world to catch up to us.

On the chain of events leading to this production

Allan Scott had the insight to buy the rights to the book when it was published. He carried the torch for many lonely years. Ironically, while *Searching for Bobby Fischer* was well reviewed and has become a beloved cult movie over time, when it came out it didn’t do well at the box office. I think was a setback for Allan’s plans to get his own chess movie made in Hollywood.

The project attracted a lot of interesting filmmakers over the years, from Bernardo Bertolucci to Tom Tykwer. It came closest to getting made with Heath Ledger directing, but it was abandoned once again after his shocking and untimely death. Scott Frank and I had flirted with making it together at least 10 years ago, but there wasn’t a way to get it financed as a movie. It was really Scott revisiting it after “Godless,” and his conviction that the story would work better in this format, that finally allowed it to get made.

On Anya Taylor-Joy

We knew we had to find a Beth with a rich and complex interior life, and whose face and eyes you could just park the camera on and see the story play. The windows to the soul and all that. Anya has those qualities and more. You can’t take your eyes off of her over a seven-hour series.

On his life and career

I love books and I’ve been really fortunate to work with a number of writer/directors who are masterful at adaptation. Steve Zaillian on *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, Anthony Minghella on *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Cold Mountain* and now Scott on “The Queen’s Gambit.” They all have in common their ability to find and honor the essence of the book, but also to make it their own, to the point where you often forget what came from the novel and what came from the adaptation. I knew that Scott’s natural gifts as a storyteller and as someone who knows how to find the humor in great drama and the pain and truth inside the entertainment would serve this story well. He really understood Beth Harmon on a molecular level and he found the right tone to pull this off—no small feat. ♦



WFM ELIZABETH SPIEGEL

Improving Your Tactical Sensibilities

One of America's leading scholastic coaches shares three questions that will help you see more in-game shots.

By WFM ELIZABETH SPIEGEL

I've been teaching at a large public middle school—I.S. 318, in Brooklyn, NY—for 20 years. And in that time, I've been to a lot of national scholastic championships.

One thing has never made sense to me: isn't it a bit strange that the national scholastic championships count only the top four scores from a school? Is a school with just four very strong players really the definition of the best chess program in the country?

In any case, I'm a public school teacher, so I always have large classes of kids. While their playing strengths vary dramatically, I think it's incredibly important to include as many students on the team as possible. For the last 18 years, we have brought 55-60 kids to nationals. One year our team t-shirts had each player's number on the back—where your number was your rank on the school rating list. It was great fun for me to see kids from other teams, especially opponents we faced in multiple rounds, realize what the numbers meant. ("I lost to #56 and now I have to play #39?!")

Through this experience of teaching large classes of kids at different levels of skill, I have continually found myself returning to one question: what is the most efficient way to teach a group of students to improve their calculative abilities? Or, put differently, exactly what does a strong player think about when she/he tries to solve a tactics problem?

The first thing I teach is that it is *your job as a chess player* to look at *every forcing move* on every turn. Forcing moves are checks, captures, and major threats like checkmate or threats against the queen. You must calculate every forcing move to the end of the forced variation.

I say this over and over to my students. It is your job to calculate every check and every capture, for both sides, on every move. This is admittedly a lot of work. Fortunately, there are more efficient thinking methods than sheer brute force. Over the years I have found three questions that, I think, help to direct students' thinking in the most useful way:

QUESTION 1: What enemy pieces and pawns are not protected or not well protected?

"Not well protected" means a piece is protected only as many times as it is attacked, so if you attack it again, you will be threatening to take it. These pieces (unprotected and not well protected) are the potential targets. Keep them at the front of your tactical mind.

QUESTION 2: What enemy pieces are on the same line as each other or as my piece?

This will help you find discoveries, pins, and skewers.

QUESTION 3: What's your dream move?

This question actually has a few versions. The beginner version is, "If you could pick up your queen and put it anywhere, where would it be checkmate?" and, for such a highly specific question, it is remarkably helpful!

The advanced version of the question is "If you could pick up any piece and put it on another square, where would you put it?" This will often give you great maneuvering ideas but will also draw your attention to tactics that might otherwise look impossible. The idea is to focus on what you want to achieve and not be limited by what you think your immediate choices are.

Let's look at how we can ask our questions in a few positions. We will start by circling the targets: the unprotected and not-well-protected pieces. Then draw lines wherever you notice pieces on the same line. Finally, let your imagination run a little and ask yourself what would happen if you pick a piece up and move it anywhere. See what ideas jump into your mind.

EXAMPLE 1:

WHITE TO MOVE

Question 1 asks, "What enemy pieces or pawns are unprotected or not well protected?" Here, Black's a4-knight and h5-bishop are unprotected. The queen can attack them both from a5 or b5. This helps us find **1. Qb8+ Kh7 2. Qb5**, winning a piece.

EXAMPLE 2:

WHITE TO MOVE

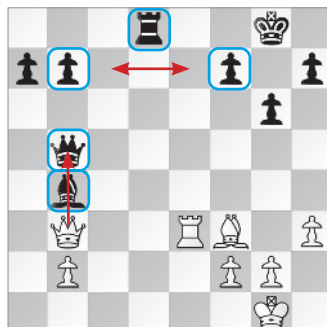
Black's queen is unprotected and both rooks are not well protected. But the most important clue in this position is that White's bishop shares a diagonal with Black's king. White wins by removing the pieces between them: **1. Rxf7**. Note that it's important to get the move order right, as 1. Qxd7? Qxd7 2. Rxf7 Qc7 is totally winning for Black. Don't let them accept the first sacrifice and decline the second! **1. ... Kxf7 2. Qxd7 Qxd7 3. e6+** and White is winning.

EXAMPLE 3:

WHITE TO MOVE

Here's a great example of how helpful question 3 can be. It would be checkmate if White's queen was on e5, so... **1. Bh6+ Rxh6 2. Qe5 mate**.

Now let's look at some more complex positions.

EXAMPLE 4:

WHITE TO MOVE

Here, Black's rook and queen are unprotected. Black's b4-bishop and f7- and b7-pawns are not well-protected. Notice the pin on the b-file, and that the black pawns are both on the seventh rank. This should point you right to **1. Re7 Bxe7** (if 1. ... Rf8 2. Rxb7) **2. Qxb5**, which wins the house.

EXAMPLE 5:

BLACK TO MOVE

The rook looks good on b8, but where would it be great?

1. ... Rd8!

There is no stopping ... Rd8-d2, followed by ... Rd2-c2, and Black wins.

2. g4 Rd2

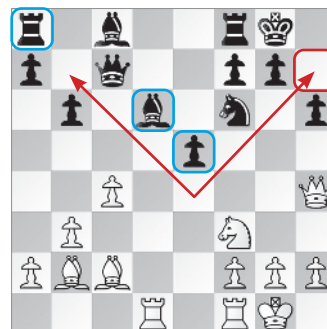
Cleaner is 2. ... hxg4! 3. Qxg4 Rd2 (GM John Nunn-GM Tony Miles, London 1980, 0-1) with the idea 4. h5 Rc2.

3. gxh5

3. g5!? tries to make things messy, but to no avail. Black is still winning.

3. ... Rc2

Now ... Rc2-c1 is crushing.

EXAMPLE 6:

WHITE TO MOVE

Let's go through our three questions: (1) Black's a8-rook is undefended. Black's d6-bishop and e5-pawn are not well protected. (2) The two important lines here are the e4-a8 diagonal, leading to Black's hanging rook, and the b1-h7 diagonal, which leads to Black's king. Notice that they intersect at e4. (3) The queen on h7 would be checkmate, except for the presence of Black's f6-knight. This gives us a lot of clues, and it's just a matter of looking at the forcing moves all the way to the end:

17. Rxd6! Qxd6 18. Bxe5 Qe6 19. Bxf6 Qxf6

After 19. ... gxf6 White wins with 20. Be4 Rb8 21. Qg3+ Qg4 22. Qxb8.

20. Qe4! Qg6 21. Qxa8 Qxc2 22. Qxa7

White is up two pawns and is totally winning in Shakhriyar Mamedyarov-Samir Davidov, (Baku 2001, 1-0).

EXAMPLE 7:

WHITE TO MOVE

Black's a8-rook is unprotected but hard to target. Black's queen is also unprotected. Nothing special seems to be going on until you ask yourself where White's c7-bishop would be better placed. The winning move is:

1. Bg3!! and White will win the queen after f2-f3 and Bg3-e1!

Next, try these yourself. Start by circling the targets, drawing any important lines you notice, and making note of any drop-queen checkmates or piece improvements. Check your answers on page 44.

EXERCISE I.



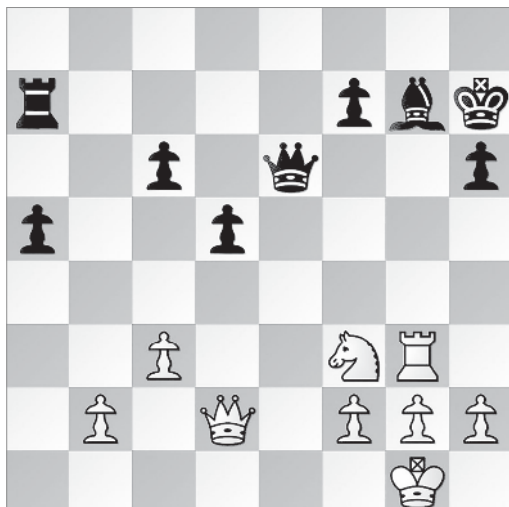
WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE II.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE III.



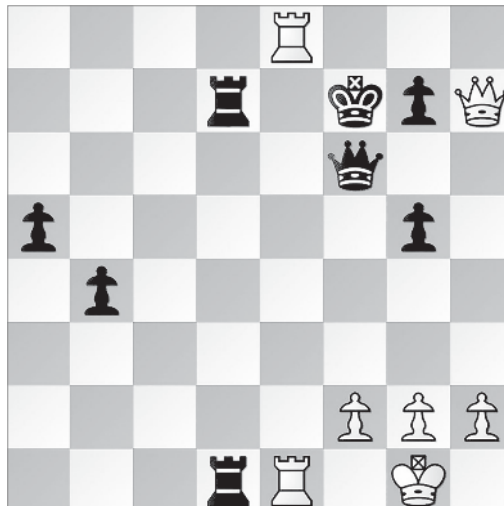
WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE IV.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE V.



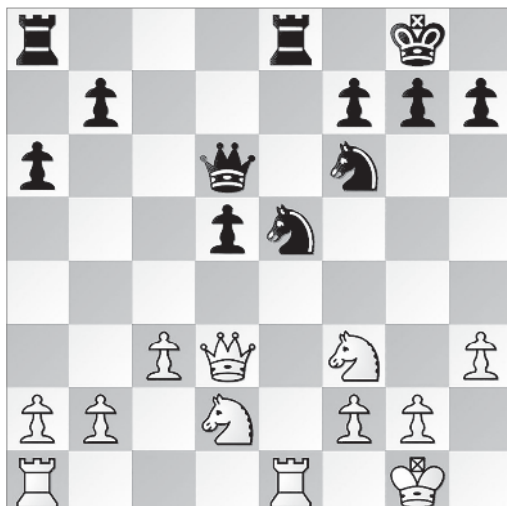
WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE VI.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE VII.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE VIII.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE IX.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE X.



BLACK TO MOVE

EXERCISE XI.



WHITE TO MOVE

EXERCISE XII.



WHITE TO MOVE



AT THE KCF 2019 ALL GIRLS NATIONALS, LEFT TO RIGHT: WFM ELIZABETH SPIEGEL, ROBIN RANSOM, JUDITH MARSON-ROGERS, NAME UNKNOWN, KIMBERLY DOO MCVAY.

Answers

EXERCISE I

This position looks simple: the h4-rook and e6-bishop are both unprotected. It looks like both Qc3-f6 and Qc3-e1 fork them, but only one move works: **1. Qe1!** 1. Qf6? allows the defense 1. ... Re4.

EXERCISE II

Black's d6-bishop and f7-pawn are not well protected, and a queen drop on h7 would lead to mate. Thus, **1. Qd3!**

EXERCISE III

Black's a7-rook is unprotected and the g7-bishop is not well protected. **1. Rxg7+! Kxg7 2. Qd4+** wins material.

EXERCISE IV

Black's a8-rook is unprotected and the c7-pawn is not well protected. Black's king and queen are on the same diagonal as White's bishop.

You might first look at 1. Bxe6 Bxe6 2. Nxc7 but you'd soon realize it gains only a tiny amount of material (rook and two pawns for bishop and knight). If you try changing the move order, you'll find the excellent **1. Nxc7!** with a double attack on the rooks. If Black takes with **1. ... Qxc7 2. Bxe6+** wins the queen and two pawns for two pieces.

EXERCISE V

Black's pieces are fairly well defended here; only the d1-rook is not well defended. But

notice that if you could replace the e8-rook with White's queen, it would be mate. **1. Rf8+! Kxf8 2. Qh8+ Kf7 3. Qe8, mate.**

EXERCISE VI

Black's knight is not well defended, and Black's queen and a8-rook share a diagonal. **1. Rxc4 dxc4 2. Be4** wins material.

EXERCISE VII

Black's queen is *en prise* and the e5-knight is not well protected. Black's d5-pawn is pinned by White's queen. Taken together, we find the idea **1. Rxe5! Rxe5 2. Nc4!**

EXERCISE VIII

Black's rook is not well protected. White's bishop is pinning the g7-pawn to the Black king. This leads us to **1. Qxg7+! Qxg7 2. Rxe7!**

EXERCISE IX

Black's b7-pawn is not well-protected, as it is attacked by the queen and rook and defended by the king and knight. Black's king and queen are on the same diagonal line. White's rook pins Black's knight to the queen. If White can take on b7, it's checkmate. My first thought would be to remove the defender of the checkmate:

1. Rxd6

Black can recapture with the pawn, defending the b7-square sideways with the queen.

1. ... cxd6

Now White uses the fact that the Black king and queen share a diagonal to pin the queen.

2. Bh3 Qxh3 3. Qxb7, mate.

EXERCISE X

This is a perfect position for question 3. If Black could play ... Qe8-g2, it would be mate. How to get the queen get to this fantastic square? How about ...

1. ... Rc7!!

(preparing ... Qe8-a8)

2. a3 Qa8 3. Be3 Nd3 4. Rc2

If 4. Qxd3? Qg2, mate.

4. ... b4 5. Na2

5. Qxd3? fails to 5. ... Rxc3.

5. ... Nc5

Black has a dominating position and went on to win.

EXERCISE XI

This is a tough one. Let's look at it with our questions in mind. The a6-rook is undefended. The g6-square is not well protected, and there is some pressure on the d-file, even if the d8-rook looks safe now.

1. Bf7!! Kxf7

1. ... Qxf7 loses material after 2. Rxd8.

2. Rxd8 Qxd8 3. Qb7+

and White goes up the Exchange.

EXERCISE XII

What clues do our questions give us? Black's h8-rook is unprotected, and the e5-pawn is not well protected. If White could pick up the rook or queen and place it at d8 it would be mate. Nd5-f6 would also be mate without the d7-knight defending the f6-square. Finally, White's rook is on the same line as Black's king.

1. Rxe5+! Be7

Other moves lose instantly: if 1. ... Nxe5? 2. Nf6 mate; and if 1. ... dxe5? 2. Nf6+ Nxf6 3. Rd8, mate.

2. Rxe7+ Kf8 3. Qf5

Threatening mate on f7.

3. ... Ne5

Defending the f7-square and uncovering the c8-bishop's attack on the queen.

4. Qf6

Hitting the unprotected h8-rook and maintaining the threat of f4xe5 and Qf6xf7.

4. ... Rh7 5. Re8+ Kxe8 6. Qd8, mate

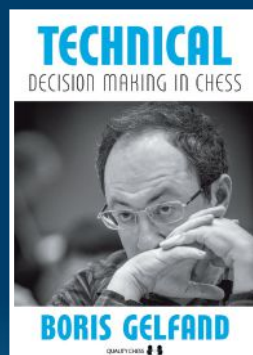
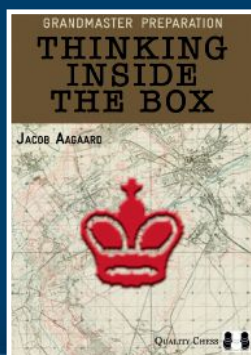
The game reference is Shibarevic-Bukic (Banja Luka 1976, 1-0). ♠

He's back!



GM Jacob Aagaard, one of the world's leading trainers and writers, will headline our award-winning coverage of the 2020 Candidates on Chess Life Online.

Aagaard will analyze the most interesting game of each round as only he can: deeply, extensively, definitively. This is the analysis that the experts will be quoting tomorrow, and we have it exclusively here at *Chess Life Online*.





MAKE YOUR MOVE!

NOVEMBER 2020 | FM CARSTEN HANSEN

Today's chess competitions have become a mixture of online and some more traditional events, and that is reflected this month in the sourcing of the exercises.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in 1-2 weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles, that will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. (Note – hints are in a separate box below the diagrams. ~ed.)

TACTIC I.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC II.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC III.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC IV.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC V.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VI.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VII.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VIII.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC IX.



BLACK TO MOVE

POSITION 1: Where are you going?
POSITION 2: Missing connection
POSITION 3: Overburdened defenders

POSITION 4: Diversion, then strike!
POSITION 5: Pins
POSITION 6: Interfere and clear

POSITION 7: A lead in development can be decisive
POSITION 8: Mobilization
POSITION 9: Identify White's weaknesses, then strike



The world's largest chess community
Play with millions from around the world!



Improve with Lessons, Videos, & Tactics
FREE Unlimited Play on Web & Mobile!



Titled Players get Free Diamond Memberships and
\$1000 Titled Tuesday Tournaments!



STAY AT HOME • IMPROVE YOUR CHESS



US CHESS NEEDS YOU!

Sign up,
renew your
membership,
or make
a donation at
uschess.org



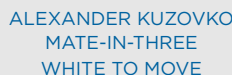
US CHESS
FEDERATION

Safeguard the services you enjoy • Help us fulfill our educational non-profit mission

By **JOHN HARTMANN**

Today's players are also turning to composing problems and studies. GM Jan Timman is perhaps the most famous player turned composer, while IM Yochanan Afek is one of the world's leading study authors. The

FIDE recently released the results of the 2020 FIDE World Cup in Composing. Below are the winning mate-in-two, mate-in-three, and endgame study, with the solutions further below. For more, go to the World Federation for Chess Composition website: <https://www.wfcc.ch/>



This is a fine example of the deep complexities of modern directmate composition. Here Stojnic has created a problem based on the Rukhlis theme, where no fewer than six initial mate tries now work against different defenses after the first key move. But you needn't know all that to enjoy this mate-in-two.

Imagine it was Black to move. White will checkmate Black after any of Black's moves: 1. ... Qg8 (1. ... Qf4+ 2. exf4 mate; 1. ... Qxe3 2. Qxe3 mate; 1. ... dxe5 2. Nc3 mate; 1. ... f2 2. Qh1 mate; 1. ... cxb4 2. Qxb4 mate; 1. ... Qxf5 2. Bxf5 mate)

2. Nf6 mate

The key move is **1. Qg3!** when all the mates change! Here are all the tries: 1. ... Qg8 2. Qf4 mate; 1. ... Qf4 2. QxT4 mate; 1. ... dxe5 2. Nf6 mate; 1. ... Qxe3 2. Nf6 mate (2. Nf6+? QxT6); 1. ... cxb4 2. Rd4 mate; 1. ... Qxf5 2. Bxf5 mate; 1. ... c4 2. Rd4 mate.

ALEXANDER KUZOVKO
2020 FIDE CUP B, 1ST PRIZE

This, as even Judge Mladencovic notes, "is" a beautiful problem where five Black defenses "on the same square (d5) are answered by five White's second moves to the [d4-square]." In

The Internet Chess Club and Continental Chess Association presents:



- 🏆 Kings Island Open
- 🏆 North American Open
- 🏆 National Chess Congress

- 👑 Over \$100,000 in prize money paid out
- 👑 Class prizes so you can win too!
- 👑 Longer controls for an OTB experience
- 👑 Weekly US Chess rated events
- 👑 US Chess approved fair play oversight



More information:

chessevents.us

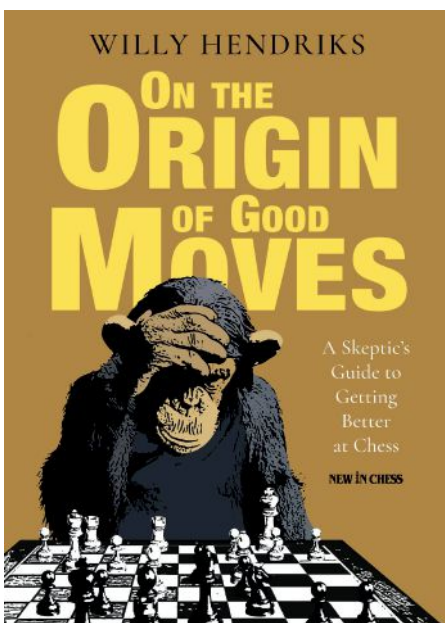


**Continental
Chess
Association**

Rewriting the History of the Development of Chess Ideas

Iconoclastic IM Willy Hendriks hits his mark once more.

By IM JOHN WATSON



IM Willy Hendriks made a big splash in the chess world with his controversial 2012 book *Move First, Think Later*, which basically savaged the bulk of existing instructional literature while laying forth his own view of the learning process. Since his new book *On the Origin of Good Moves* refers back to the ideas in that work, and at one point recaps the important ones at length, I'm going to refer you to my lengthy review of the earlier work on the *This Week in Chess* website:

theweekinchess.com/john-watson-reviews/john-watson-book-review-103-challenging-conventional-wisdom

I found that I agreed with most of what Hendriks had to say in *Move First, Think Later* (although not with his dismissal of some classic literature), and that is also true of *On the Origin of Good Moves*. In both cases, he's noticed misconceptions and myths that have persisted in chess literature and has been the first to point them out. He introduces this new project by describing a standard view of how chess ideas have evolved through the years:

[Quotations from the best-known books about this subject] seem to suggest that there is agreement on what 'the stages in the development of chess' consist of, and indeed, there is a view that almost all those writing about the history of our game adhere to.

In this generally approved view, William Steinitz plays a central role. He is supposed to have been the first to understand the laws of positional chess and also the first to present this knowledge in his writings. The period before Steinitz is often described as 'romantic,' with 'attacking at all costs' as its main characteristic. With his concepts of balance and of making plans based on the elements of the position, Steinitz more or less brought science and enlightenment into chess thinking. (p.10)

Hendriks thinks that this whole picture is nonsense. To expand upon this, I'll note that the same books also tend to assert that Morphy introduced the "principles of development," while Tarrasch and Lasker are supposed to have carried on and put Steinitz's methods on a "scientific" basis. Hendriks continues:

However, I believe that if you take a closer look at this history, it seems rather strange that we have ended up with this 'official' version of how chess developed... at first it was my intention to shape this book as a whodunnit. While describing all the battles that have been fought in the history of chess between different schools of thinking and styles of playing, and all the discussions and controversies that went along with it, somewhere near the end it should become clear how the crime was committed. Unfortunately, this asks too much of my writing abilities. So I may just as well give it away right here: Emanuel Lasker did it! (ibid.)

That is, Lasker concocted this standard version of events (he refers to it as "The Great Lasker Hoax"), and promulgated it to the world. A fair criticism, but not the whole story. It's true that Lasker's idealistic view of the development of positional principles and transitions between Steinitz, Lasker, and their forebears laid the grounds for later misconceptions, but what expanded and cemented the myths about the history of chess ideas all the way into this century was Richard Reti's brilliant *Modern Ideas in Chess*.

This was one of the first few chess books I read, and I absolutely fell in love with it. Sweeping, romantic, thought-provoking—and what a writer! Reti not only made the development of chess thought into a series of fundamental positional insights, but his notion that personality differences and fundamental spiritual and cultural trends underlie the contrasting approaches of these great geniuses makes a wonderful story.

Nevertheless, it didn't take me too many years of studying the great players' games to realize that most of what Reti actually said about their styles was at best misleading and often simply wrong. Worse, the basic distinctions he drew and the evolution of thought he described became baked into the next 70 years of chess literature, with Euwe being one of several who essentially repeated them.

More recently, the most disappointing thing to me about Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series, which is a masterpiece of analysis by a chess genius, is that it buys into the same old stereotyped portrayal of the great players' styles. To be fair, I believe that he was fed the historical material by his collaborator Dmitry Plisetsky and largely limited himself to the most famous games, which are hardly characteristic. Had he done broader research, it wouldn't have taken Kasparov long at all to realize how misleading these pretty pictures were. Hendriks does a masterful job of showing how the standard story fails, and why. What makes the book delightful is that he does so with spectacular examples and loads of entertaining stories.

With that in mind, let me step back and describe some examples of what he has included in this sweeping and complex historical overview. To begin with, Hendriks has a chapter on Greco, who is shockingly advanced for his time, especially in terms of attacking ideas, pawn chains, rook lifts and other strategies. A few years ago, Jeremy Silman had a wonderful article about Greco outlining all this (on *Chess.com*); it makes for eye-opening reading.

An examination of Philidor and his contemporaries is next, taking a hard look at Philidor's legendary claims about pawn play. This is followed by a close look at the La Bourdonnais-McDonnell matches and what the games tell us about the advancement of tactical and positional play. Throughout his exposition, Hendriks intersperses entertaining stories about the old players and their eccentricities, which makes for easy reading. In the middle of one Morphy-Paulsen match game, Morphy has used 25 minutes for his moves, versus 11 hours(!) for Louis Paulsen; he gets up quietly at that point, crunches his fist, and says "Paulsen will never win a game of me again." Different times.

I was happy to find that Adolf Anderssen is given his due as a premier positional player well ahead of his time, something obscured by his famous brilliancies but obvious if you examine the games from his long career. The Morphy-Anderssen section shows that Morphy wasn't more advanced conceptually than his great

contemporary, as Reti would have it.

Anderssen was more subtle and skilled at maneuvering in a wide variety of middlegames, including some very modern ones (Hendriks even calls him "the father of modern chess.") However, he was indecisive and not as accurate in positions he was unfamiliar with, and while a tactical genius, he had somewhat worse tactical instincts than Morphy, and was prone to make more tactical mistakes, whereas Morphy was more accurate in all phases of the game, and made fewer blunders.

I loved the sections in which Steinitz, Zukertort, and Chigorin are featured. Hendriks demonstrates how often Steinitz won in spite of his theories (several about pawn play are horribly off base, and his reckless use of the king was notoriously deluded), or lost while stubbornly trying to follow them against all common sense.

Hendriks subjects the 1892 Chigorin-Steinitz match to a devastating critique, concluding "[t]he average master of today would surely stand a good chance against Steinitz or Chigorin." (p.333) That sounds harsh, but is actually consistent with these two being among the top 15 all-time chess geniuses deserving the highest respect. Hendriks' point is that their tactical level was quite primitive; today's player sees and solves more tactical positions in a few sessions of online exercises than Steinitz and Chigorin did in a lifetime. Furthermore, the two played many terribly error-ridden games with time controls three to ten times longer than we see today. In spite of this, considering the state of chess knowledge at the time, one comes away with high regard for the depth and sophistication, if not the accuracy, of their play.

In the midst of these chapters, Hendriks cites uniquely modern games and ideas from some lesser-known masters such as Paulsen, Semyon Alapin, and Marmaduke Wyvill. The latter put up a good fight versus Anderssen in the famous London 1851 match tournament, using the English Opening and Sicilian Defense in ways that you wouldn't be able to distinguish from contemporary practice.

Nominally, a major topic of this book is chess improvement (the subtitle is "A Skeptic's Guide to Getting Better at Chess"), so let's listen to Hendriks' contentions with respect to how one might or might not be able to learn from the historical development of the game:

Returning to the question of how and what to learn from the history of chess, Euwe, Kasparov and many others have suggested that every beginner in chess has to get past some sort of primitive Romantic style, 'the manner of play in the 16th and 17th

centuries'. The follow-up to this is the idea that we develop from wildly attacking players into more positional ones, with Steinitz as the turning point in the historical part.

Neither at the historical nor at the individual level do I share this observation. It is more likely that most players develop from bad attacking and bad positional players into better ones on both terrains. This way, the resemblance between personal and general history that is left becomes very modest: throughout the history of chess we became better in all areas and you, as an individual, have also become better in all areas in your career as well or are still in the process of trying to. So, to make the comparison fruitful, we have to look at a deeper level.

Getting better is essentially not a passage through styles, as Euwe and Kasparov make it appear, but an accumulation of small bits of knowledge: opening knowledge, endgame knowledge, and knowledge of typical tactics and typical strategic ideas. History books tend to hop from this style to that style, together with the typical features or big ideas that belong to them and their most prominent representatives. But beneath the surface there is an evolution going on of an enormous quantity of small concrete elements that are discovered, become part of common knowledge, and get developed further. We have seen a few of these elements in this book and followed some through time. (p.397)

What to make of all this? I am biased, having a special interest in this area and here seeing another writer explicitly say what I've thought for years about the subject (and much more). But whether or not you buy into Hendriks' philosophy of chess thinking, I'm certain that *On the Origin of Moves* is the most important and original work written about the evolution of chess ideas. Furthermore, he has made this subject accessible, easily comprehensible, and fun to boot. For those of you who want a break from opening study, improvement books, and games collections, I highly recommend getting a copy and enjoying a new perspective on our game. You might find yourself getting addicted to chess history in the bargain. ♠

Editor's note: Both IM Willy Hendriks and IM John Watson have appeared on The Perpetual Chess Podcast, as have many other interesting chess personalities. To hear their episodes, and many others, visit: www.perpetualchesspod.com

The Professional

Former *Chess Life* columnist GM Larry Evans played as well as he wrote.

By **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

GRANDMASTER LARRY EVANS (1932-2010) was for some years America's top chess professional. He did everything well, and that includes teaching, writing, exhibiting, presenting, and even playing chess. While he wasn't as strong as Bobby Fischer, he was a terrific player in his own right, winning or tying for the U.S. Championship five times. We get a sense for the quality of his play from his game against Bela Berger (Black) from the 1964 Amsterdam Interzonal. After a steady opening, Evans sacrificed a piece. In no time, he had converted his initiative into a winning endgame. The encounter began as a Caro-Kann Defense:

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B19)

GM Larry Evans
Bela Berger
Amsterdam 1964

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4



Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess

it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that White's move is on the next line.**

4. Nxe4 **Par Score 5**

You may accept *full credit* for either 4. f3 or 4. Bc4. Both are playable.

4. ... **Bf5****

5. Ng3 **Par Score 5**

White gains a tempo on the f5-bishop.

5. ... **Bg6****

6. Nf3 **Par Score 5**

Evans develops toward the center. You may accept *full credit* for 6. h4.

6. ... **Nd7**

Black might also have played 6. ... Nf6.**

7. h4 **Par Score 5**

The immediate point of this move is clear. The threat is to trap the bishop by h4-h5.

7. ... **h6**

Black creates a retreat square. A little weaker is 7. ... h5.**

8. h5 **Par Score 5**

The standard move. You may accept *full credit* for 8. Bd3.

8. ... **Bh7****

9. Bd3 **Par Score 5**

Nothing new here. We're still in a popular line.

9. ... **Bxd3**

Naturally, Black doesn't want to allow capture on h7.**

10. Qxd3 **Par Score 5**

In this trendy variation, White gets ready to castle queenside.

10. ... **Qc7**

Black stops Bc1-f4 and in turn also makes queenside castling possible.**

11. Bd2 **Par Score 5**

This is the main line. You may accept *4 points part credit* for either 11. Ne2 or 11. Rh4.

11. ... **Ngf6**

Queenside castling was also possible, but Black does have to get the g8-knight out sometime.**

12. O-O-O **Par Score 5**

So far, everything has gone according to plan.

12. ... **e6**

It's time for Black's remaining bishop to come into the game.**

13. Kb1 **Par Score 5**

This is the most practical move. It gets the king to a safer place before serious operations begin. You may accept *full credit* for 13. Ne4.

13. ... **c5**

Black changes plans. Queenside castling has now become a little riskier.**

14. c4 **Par Score 5**

ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 59.

November Exercise: There are various ways you can try to improve your self-protective awareness. You could study the games of known defensive and counterattacking wizards. You could also try this exercise. Whenever you see a winning tactical situation, create a diagram of the previous move, when there was still a chance to avoid trouble. Create a database of these landmine positions and regularly play through each example. As you review these critical setups again and again, you should become tactically more alert to possible hazards and snares. Without doubt, learning how to ward off danger will indeed strengthen your overall game.

PROBLEM I.
Mating net



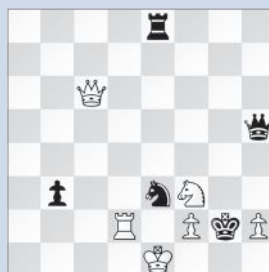
PROBLEM II.
Mating net



PROBLEM III.
Mating net



PROBLEM IV.
Mating net



PROBLEM V.
Mating net



PROBLEM VI.
Mating net



If 14. Rhe1, Black could continue with 14. ... c4.

14. ... **cx d4**

Black opens the c-file and clears c5 for a piece.**

15. **Nxd4** **Par Score 5**

Deduct 1 point for 15. Qxd4, which would be answered by 15. ... Bc5.

15. ... **a6**

Berger stops a knight invasion at b5. But he could also have played either 15. ... Bc5 or 15. ... Be7.**

16. **Nxe6** **Par Score 6**

This sacrifice does not win by force, but it leads to some intriguing possibilities. You may accept *full credit* for 16. Rhe1.

16. ... **fxe6**

The best way to refute a sacrifice is to accept it.**

17. **Qg6+** **Par Score 5**

The expected follow-up. White makes the black king move.

17. ... **Kd8**

Black could keep the e6-pawn defended by 17. ... Ke7, but that would keep his bishop blocked.**

18. **Rhe1** **Par Score 6**

All White's pieces are now in play. Does he have enough for the sacrificed piece?

18. ... **Kc8**

Black removes his king from the d-file. Add *1 bonus point* if you had planned to answer 18. ... Qxc4 by 19. Ba5+.**

19. **Rxe6** **Par Score 5**

White now has two pawns for his piece, while retaining considerable attacking chances.

19. ... **b6**

This gives the black king a potential escape square at b7. He might have tried either 19. ... Kb8 or even 19. ... Nc5.**

20. **Qf5** **Par Score 6**

Evans repositions his queen nicely. Clearly, there are indirect possibilities against the black king. You may accept *4 points part credit* for 20. Ne2.

20. ... **Kb7**

Black is running, but he can't hide.**

21. **Bf4** **Par Score 5**

Suddenly, the sacrifice has been made to work. Black's pieces are hopelessly uninvolved on their home rank.

21. ... **Qc5**

No better was 21. ... Qc8. Black would still be lost.**

22. **Rxf6** **Par Score 7**

A pretty shot! Give yourself *1 bonus point* for seeing that 22. ... Nxf6 loses to 23. Rd7+. Black has no better than trading queens, 22. ... Qxf5 23. Rxf5, leaving White with an easily won endgame, two pawns up.

22. ... **Black Resigned** ↗

Did you know you could read archival copies of "Solitaire Chess" (and all columns and features)? Go to uschess.org, click on "Chess Life Magazine," and then "Archives."

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-94	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through November 30, 2020 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "XXXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHESSE.ORG Effective with the November 2020 *Chess Life*, we have removed the National Events and Bids page that has traditionally been part of our TLA section. This information continues to be available here: <https://new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar>

Nationals

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2020 National K-12 Grade Championships

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

7SS, G/90 d5. Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819. Guest rooms can be booked, NLT 11/16/2020, by calling (866)996-6338, mention US Chess. HR: \$125 Single/Quad (fees and applicable taxes not included). 13 Sections. Play only in your grade section. No playing up allowed. December Rating Supplement will be used. Only one 1/2-point bye available, any round except Round 7, if requested prior to the start of Rd. 1. Team score = total of top three (minimum two) finishers from each school per grade. First place individual and team, including ties, will be the National Champion for their grade. Schedule: Opening ceremony Fri. 12:45 PM. Rds.: Fri. 1 PM-6 PM, Sat. 10 AM - 2 PM - 6 PM, Sun. 9 AM - 1 PM. Awards Ceremony: Sun., approx. 5 PM. Special round times for K-1 sections: Fri. 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Sat. 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM. K-1 Awards Ceremony: Sun. approx. 4:30 PM. EF: \$70/participant postmarked or online by 11/23, \$90 postmarked or online by 11/30, \$105 by 12/9, \$110 on site; \$20.00 extra for all phone registrations; \$30 fee for roster or section changes after 12/5 or any onsite changes. Onsite Registration: Thurs. 9 AM to 9 PM & Fri. 8 AM to 11 AM. Players who register or change sections after 11 AM on Friday will receive a 1/2-point bye for Rd. 1. Awards: Awards to top individuals & top teams in each grade. Every player receives a commemorative medal! Full list of awards on tournament info page. Side Event: Blitz: K-6 and K-12, G/5 d5, Thurs. 5 PM, Reg. onsite until 4 PM. Blitz EF: \$30 by 11/25, \$35 after or at site. Blitz Awards: Awards in K-6 and K-12 sections. Full list of awards on tournament info page. Team Rooms: Limited supply. General Questions: Pete Karagianis, pete.karagianis@uschess.org. Entries: U.S. Chess Federation, Attn.: 2020 K-12 Championship, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or online at <https://secure2.uschess.org/webstore/tournament.php>. See website for additional information about the event, special COVID-19 procedures, advance entries, awards, team rooms, meetings, updates, corrections, and registration forms, <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2020/k12/>

GRAND PRIX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2020 G/10 Championship (BLZ)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

6 rounds, G/10 d0. Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Road, Charlotte, NC 704-547-7444 and mention chess tournament, or reserve online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid. Hotel rooms \$109-\$109, reserve by December 1. Free parking, free internet. \$1000 guaranteed prize fund in one section. G/10 National Championship: \$300-200-100, top Under 2200 \$100, top Under 1900 \$100, top Under 1600 \$100, top Under 1300/Unrated \$100. Plaques and 2020 U.S. G/10 National Champion title to first place. 2019 U.S. G/10 Champion (Charlotte): GM Ilia Nyzhnyk (2752). USCF Blitz rated, December USCF regular ratings used for pairings and prizes. Up to 2 byes available, request at registration. Rounds Friday 7:30pm then ASAP. Registration: \$30 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid or check mailed to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226 by 12/15. Award after 12/15 or on-site. GMS, IMs, WGMs free, \$30 from prize. Boards and sets provided, please bring clocks. Info and registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

GRAND PRIX NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2020 U.S. G/30 Championship

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

5 rounds, G/30 d5. Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Road, Charlotte, NC 704-547-7444 and mention chess tournament, or reserve online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid. Hotel rooms \$109-\$109, reserve by December 1. Free parking, free internet, entry fee discount if also playing Sunday G/60. \$3000 guaranteed prize fund in three sections. G/30 National

Championship: \$600-300-200, top Under 2000 \$100. Under 1800: \$500-250-150, top Under 1600 \$100. Under 1400: \$400-200-100, top Under 1200 \$100. Under 800 Scholastic (K-12): Entry Fee \$30, Trophies to top 8, same playing schedule as main tournament. Plaque and 2020 U.S. G/30 National Champion title to first place in Championship section. 2019 U.S. G/30 Champion (Charlotte): GM Alexander Ipatov (2713). Rated players may play up if within 100 points of next section, unrated players must play Under 1400 or U800 Scholastic section. Up to 2 byes available, request at registration. Rounds Saturday 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm. Registration: \$60 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid or check mailed to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226 by 12/15. \$10 entry discount if also entering G/60 Championship Sunday, \$10 discount if staying at official hotel. \$75 after 12/15 or on-site. U800 Scholastic \$30 entry fee. GMS, IMs, WGMs free, \$50 from prize. Boards and sets provided, please bring clocks. Info and registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2020 U.S. G/60 Championship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

4 rounds, G/60 d5. Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Road, Charlotte, NC 704-547-7444 and mention chess tournament, or reserve online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid. Hotel rooms \$109-\$109, reserve by December 1. Free parking, free internet, entry fee discount if also playing Saturday G/30. \$4000 guaranteed prize fund in four sections. G/60 National Championship: \$700-400-200, top Under 2100 \$100. Under 1900: \$500-250-150, top Under 1750 \$100. Under 1600: \$400-200-100, top Under 1450 \$100. Under 1300: \$400-200-100, top Under 1100 \$100. Plaque and 2020 U.S. G/60 National Champion title to first place in Championship section. 2019 U.S. G/60 Champion (Charlotte): GM Ilia Nyzhnyk (2752), GM Alexander Ipatov (2713), GM Mackenzie Molner (2545). Rated players may play up if within 100 points of next section, unrated players must play Under 1300 section. Up to 2 byes available, request at registration. Rounds Sunday 10am, 1pm, 3:30pm, 6pm. Registration: \$60 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid or check mailed to Charlotte Chess Center, 10700 Kettering Drive, Suite E, Charlotte, NC 28226 by 12/15. \$10 discount on early entry fee if also entering G/30 Championship Saturday, \$10 discount if staying at official hotel. \$75 after 12/15 or on-site. GMS, IMs, WGMs free, \$50 from prize. Boards and sets provided, please bring clocks. Info and registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

THIS EVENT IS
CANCELED

Online

A HERITAGE EVENT AN AMERICAN CLASSIC

29th Annual Kings Island Open

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2020

6-SS, G/75-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$10,000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 4 sections. Premier Section: Open to 2000/above. \$1400-1000-600-400, top U2300 \$600-300, top Ohio player \$100 bonus. Under 2100 Section: \$700-500-300-200, top U1900/Unr \$400-200. Under 1700 Section: \$600-400-300-200, top U1500 (no unr) \$300-150, unrated limit \$300. Under 1300 Section: \$500-300-150-100, top U1100 (no unr) \$200-100, unrated limit \$150. Entry fee at chessaction.com by 11/11. \$118; residents of Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky \$93. By 11:30 pm EST 11/14, all \$22 more. Must take round 1 bye after 9 pm EST 11/13. GMS \$90 from prize. Log into playca.com 30 minutes before game; Rounds begin 10:00, 1:30, & 5:00 EST each day. Half point byes available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular rating used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

24th Annual Mid-America Open

NOVEMBER 21, 2020

5-SS, G/45-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$4000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear

camera angle). In 4 sections. Major Section: Open to 1900/over. \$500-300-200-100, top U2200 \$240-120, top Missouri resident \$100 bonus. Under 2000/Unr Section: \$300-200-120-80, U1800 (no unr) \$180-90. Under 1700/Unr Section: \$250-180-120-60, top U1500 (no unr) \$140-70, unrated limit \$150. Under 1400/Unr Section: \$200-150-100-50, U1200 (no unr) \$100-50; unrated limit \$80. Entry fee \$68 at chessaction.com by 11/18: \$90 by 11:30 am CST 11/21, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm CST 11/20. Regional EF discount: \$20 less to residents of Central time zone. GMS \$50 from prize. Log into playca.com 30 minutes before game. Rounds begin CST 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00. Half point byes: Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

51st Annual National Chess Congress

NOVEMBER 27-29, 2020

9-SS, G/75-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$20,000 guaranteed prizes plus Under 1000 plaques & free entries. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 5 sections. Premier Section: Open to USCF 2100/over or FIDE 2000/over. \$3000-1500-1000-700-500, top U2400 \$700-500-300, clear or tiebreak 1st \$200 bonus. Under 2200/Unr Section: \$1000-700-500-400-300, top U2000/Unr \$600-500-400. Under 1800/Unr Section: \$1000-700-500-400-300, top U1600 (no unr) \$500-400-300. Under 1400/Unr Section: \$800-500-400-300-200, top U1200 (no unr) \$400-300-200. Under 1000/Unr Section: Plaques to top 10, free entry in one CCA tournament to top 5. Unrated prize limits: U1400 Section \$150, U1800 Section \$300. 24 sections entry fee at chessaction.com: \$118 by 11/13, \$138 by 11/25, \$160 by 9 am EST 11/27; must take rd 1 bye after 6 pm EST 11/26. GMS \$100 from prize. Under 1000 Section entry fee: all \$70 less. Log into playca.com 30 minutes before game. Rounds begin each day: EST 11:00 am, 2:45 pm & 6:30 pm, CST 10:00 am, 1:45 pm & 5:30 pm, MST 9:00 am, 12:45 pm & 4:30 pm, PST 8:00 am, 11:45 am & 3:30 pm. Half point byes available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular rating used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

15th Annual Los Angeles Open

DECEMBER 5, 2020

5-SS, G/45-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$4000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 4 sections. Major Section: Open to 1900/over. \$500-300-200-100, top U2200 \$240-120, top California resident \$100 bonus. Under 2000/Unr Section: \$300-200-120-80, U1800 (no unr) \$180-90. Under 1700/Unr Section: \$250-180-120-60, top U1500 (no unr) \$140-70, unrated limit \$150. Under 1400/Unr Section: \$200-150-100-50, U1200 (no unr) \$100-50; unrated limit \$80. Entry fee \$68 at chessaction.com by 12/2: \$90 by 11:30 am PST 12/5, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm PST 12/4. Regional EF discount: \$20 less to residents of California, Nevada or Arizona. GMS \$50 from prize. Log into playca.com 30 minutes before game. Rounds begin PST 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00. Half point byes: Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. Blitz tournament Friday night: see chessevents.us. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

13th Annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open

DECEMBER 6, 2020

5-SS, G/40-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$2000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 3 sections. Open Section: Open to all, \$400-200-100, top U2200 \$140, U2000 \$120, top Ohio resident \$80 bonus. Under 1900/Unr Section: \$240-120-60, top

U1700 (no unr) \$120. Under 1500/Unr Section: \$180-90-50, U1300 (no unr) \$100; unrated limit \$80. Entry fee at chessaction.com: \$47 by 12/3, \$65 by 11:30 am EST 12/6, entry after 9 pm 12/5 must take half point bye in rd 1. GMS \$40 from prize. Log into playca.com 30 minutes before game, rounds begin EST 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00. Regional EF discount: \$20 less to residents of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia or Michigan. Half point byes: available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

Grand Prix

A HERITAGE EVENT GRAND PRIX

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

75th Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

US CHESSE GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30
Championship: 7SS, G/90 with 30 sec increment. This section is FIDE rated and uses FIDE rules. The tournament will use USCF ratings for pairings and prize purposes. Must be rated 2000 or above OTB regular (not quick, blitz or rapid nor online) by either USCF or Fide to play in this section or have had a provable 2000 or higher regular rating in the past. Defending Texas State Amateur Champion may also play in this section. Defending Texas Scholastic High School Champions may also play in this section. Foreign unrateds may play in this section and at TDs discretion may be required to play in Championship section. G/90 with 30 sec. increment. Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play in Championship section. \$8,400-400-200, 2200-2399 \$500, U2200 \$500. 2200-2399 and U2200 prize based on 200 total paid entries in Championship and Amateur. 1st-3rd in Championship are Guaranteed. Both Class prizes in Championship are only 50% Guaranteed. Amateur: 7SS, G/90 with 30 sec increment. U2000 & unrated. USCF rated only. See Website for prizes. Reentry allowed for a fee of \$65 (counts 60% toward base) Both Championship and Amateur: 4-day Thursday - Sunday or 3-day Fri. - Sun. Texas Chess Association membership required. Other states accepted. EF: \$94 if received by 11/19, else \$99. \$84 Junior (U19) if received by 11/19 else \$90 (counts 90% toward base), senior (over 65)/Handicapped/ Full time college student/adult additional family participant \$60 if received by 11/19 else \$65 (Counts 60% toward base). Add \$5 for CC phone entries; pre-reg. requires pre-payment. After 11/25 all registration and changes online only; all changes including withdrawals, \$10 after 11/25. 4 day: Rds. Thurs: 7:30 pm, Fri: 2:45 pm - 7:30, Sat: 11:30 am - 5:15 pm, Sun: 9:30 am - 2:15 pm. 3 day: Rd. 1 on Friday at 9:45 am then merge with 4 day. Foreign Unrated must play in Championship section. Registrations that do not indicate 4- or 3-day schedule will be put in the 3-day. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. HR: \$85/85/85/85, 817-358-1700 reserve by 11/16 and ask for Dallas Chess Club. Free Parking. Up to two 1/2 point byes available if requested before end of rd. 2 and before receiving full point bye, but byes for both rounds 6 AND 7 is not permitted. Note that unless TD rules otherwise on a case by case basis, withdrawals and last round byes are not eligible for prizes. 1 day Scholastic on Sat. 11/28. 5SS, G/30: d5. Open to players rated under 1200 or unrated. EF: \$34 by 11/19, \$54 thereafter; Registration must be done online at www.dallaschess.com. Entries do not count toward base in Championship and Amateur. Registration: Rd. 1 at 10:20 am, rest ASAP with small lunch break. Prizes: Trophies to top 12 individuals, five teams and top three unrateds. Medals to Players who do not win a trophy. All Sections: Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Info: barbawafford.com, 214-652-9000, info@dallaschess.com, dallaschess.com NS. NC. W. FIDE. JGP for Non scholastic side event.

DECEMBER 18, 2020 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), NORTH CAROLINA
US CHESSE GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10
CANCELED: 2020 U.S. G/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (BLZ)
See Nationals.

DECEMBER 19, 2020 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 18), NORTH CAROLINA
US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20
CANCELED: 2020 U.S. G/30 CHAMPIONSHIP
See Nationals.

DECEMBER 20, 2020 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), NORTH CAROLINA
US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20
CANCELED: 2020 U.S. G/60 CHAMPIONSHIP
See Nationals.

Regionals

COLORADO

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Winter Springs Open - Manitou Springs, CO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020

-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

4-SS. Time Control G/90 with 30 seconds increment. Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs. Sections: June (open), July (U1800 & Unrated), August (U1400 & Unrated) EF: \$40 if rec'd by 12/2, \$45 at site. \$5 discount members of Colorado State Chess Assn. Additional \$5 discount for Supporting Members of Colorado Springs Chess Club. Cash prizes per entries. Second day Byes must be requested before Round 1. Register: 8:30-9:30 AM. Rounds: 10 AM, 2:30 PM both days. Entries to: Richard Buchanan, 1 Sutherland Rd., Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Information: (719) 685-1984 or buckpeace@pcisys.net Richard Buchanan buckpeace@pcisys.net.

FLORIDA

Boca Raton Chess Club

Friday night tournament games, one game a week for 4 weeks.
www.bocachess.com, 561-302-4377.

DECEMBER 11-13, 2020, 2020 National K-12 Grade Championship
See Nationals.

IDAHO

2020 December Chandra Alexis Chess Club - A6028577

WEEKLY ON SATURDAY, STARTING FROM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020, 4 TIMES

at Blue Pencil White Pawn, 7337 Northwest St., Suite 4, Boise, ID 83704. Saturday rated 4/SS G/60 d5. EF: \$25, \$200/b 10 or 80% if - 10, 9 am-8 pm. Reg.: chandraalexischessclub.org. Reg ends Fri 8 pm. 1st 12 players only. FIDE Arbiter-USA George Lundy (208) 375-1211.

ILLINOIS

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Caveman First Weekend (Oops-actually second weekend) Club #4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Ramada Plaza Chicago North Shore, 1090 South Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL 60090. 5SS, G/80-30. 2 sections based on published rating: Open: 1800+ up, Reserve Under 1800. Details & entry info: @https://www.cavemanchess.com/events-and-tournaments. Due to COVID-19, tournament planning is challenging, & tournaments may be reconfigured up to 1 week before the event or canceled. Enter online only. We will email you if there is a change & provide you an updated entry or an opportunity for a full refund. 100% refund if we cancel. Please follow the url above & https://www.facebook.com/groups/cavemanchess/ for updated information. Also see our COVID rules: https://www.cavemanchess.com/coronavirus-impact.

INDIANA

79th Annual Indiana State Chess Championship (New Date)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Waterfront Hotel and Conference Ctr., 2930 Waterfront Pkwy W. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46214, 317-299-8400. HR: \$79, Prize Fund: \$2050(b/60) in two sections. OPEN(Over 1699): 5/SS, G/100+30s. (2Day Opt Rd.1 G/40; d5). Prizes: \$300+plaque(I.N. Residents only), \$230, X \$200, A \$200, Senior, Female \$50 ea. Reserve (U1800): 5/SS, G/80+30s (2Day Opt Rd.1 G/40; d5) \$295+plaque(I.N. Residents only), \$220, C \$195, D/U \$195 Senior, Female \$50 ea. Rnds: Fri 7, Sat 11, 4, Sun 10, 4; (2-day Rd1 Sat 9 then 1800). REG: 3day Fri.6-6:45, 2day Sat.8-8:45, 1/2pt bye available Rd.1-4. EF: \$70 by 11/17, \$85 onsite, Reentry \$30.5% discount to ISCA members. ENTRIES: Go to indianachess.org or mail to Craig Hines, 613 North Park Dr., Evansville, IN 47710 with checks payable to ISCA. ISCA MEMBERSHIP MTG: 11/22 at 2:30pm.

MARYLAND

Maryland Chess Tournaments

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See www.MDChess.org for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, sign up for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the \$48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

NEW JERSEY

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

New Jersey K-12 Grade Championships

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

5SS, G/25 d5. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincoln, NJ 07738. Student Life Center, use Parking Lot #7 or #6; 4 miles from Garden State Parkway exit 109. 13 Sections: Play only in your grade. Grades K-12: Trophies to top 10 individuals, top 3 teams - top 3 from each school/grade; 50% of players receive trophy or medal! Rds.: 10am and ASAP. EF: \$35 by 11/15, \$55 at site. USCF mem reg'd. Reg.: 8-9:00am After 9:00am 1/2 pt bye rd 1. Info: 732 259-3881, Halsprechman@gmail.com Ent: Please make checks payable to NJSCF and send to Hal Sprechman, 66 Cromwell Lane, Jackson, NJ 08527. Entries must include name, grade, school, date of birth, USCF ID # & expiration, mailing address, phone number & entry fee, please include email address. Register online at: www.njscf.org until 7pm 11/21.

NEW YORK

Marshall Masters

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

4-SS, G/25 d5. Open to players rated 2000+. FIDE Rapid rated. (\$750 b/25): \$250-150-100; U2400: \$125; U2300: \$100; Biggest upset: \$25 EF: \$30; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall Thursday Action

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. EF: \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 7-8:10-9:20-10:30pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Marshall Monthly U2400

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

5-SS, G/90+30. Open to players rated below 2400 USCF. (\$1000 b/40): \$500-200; U2100: \$150; U1800: \$150. EF: \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Fri 7pm, Sat & Sun: 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall Rated Beginner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. EF: \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. Max two byes; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020

9-SS, G/3+2. USCF Blitz ratings (when possible) used for pairings & prizes. (\$500 b/35): \$200-100; U2400/unr, U2200, U2000, U1800: \$50. EF: \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: Begin at 7pm and continue ASAP. Max three byes; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall G/50 (Open & U1800)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2020

4-SS, G/45 d5. Two Sections: Open: (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2200: \$75. U1800: (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1600: \$75. EF: \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall Rated Beginner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. EF: \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Community Chess Club of Rochester Wed Night Chess!

WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAY, STARTING FROM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020, UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Note: 1 game rated per night, G/80 d5. Rochester Chess Center, 221 Morris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. EF: \$5, CCR members \$3. Reg.: 6:30-7:15 pm. Rd.: 7:30pm. www.rochesterchessclub.org.

Marshall Thursday Action

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. EF: \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 7-8:10-9:20-10:30pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

104th Edward Lasker Memorial/MMC Championship

(DEC. 4-6 & 11-13)

WEEKLY ON FRIDAY, STARTING FROM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020, UNTIL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

9-SS, G/90+30. Open to players rated 2000+ USCF or FIDE; NO Exceptions! FIDE ratings used for pairings and prizes. FIDE rated. (\$750 b/40) \$3000-1500-1000, U2400 FIDE: \$1000-500, U2300 FIDE: \$500. Title of "2020 Marshall Chess Club Champion" goes to highest-scoring MCC Member. Tie break for the title will be decided by blitz playoffs (G/3+2) and an Armageddon game (bidding for time) if necessary. EF: \$250 (G/MS can petition for a free entry, space permitting.); Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$50 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Fri 12/4: 7pm, Sat 12/5: 12 & 6pm, Sun 12/6: 12 & 6pm, Fri 12/11: 7pm, Sat 12/8: 12 & 6pm, Sun 12/13: 12pm, Blitz Playoff (if necessary): TBD. Max three byes; request at entry (limit one bye in rounds 8-9). FIDE GM/IM Norms possible; must play all rounds. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments!

WEEKLY ON SATURDAY, STARTING FROM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020, UNTIL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020

3-SS, G/60 d5. Rochester CC, 221 Morris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. Prizes based on entries. EF: \$16, RCC members \$14. \$2 less for HS and Pre-HS. Reg.: 1-1:45 pm. Rds.: 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry. www.mychess.org. Also, Youth tournament, G/30 d5, every Saturday morning 10am-1pm, trophies and prizes. EF: \$6

Marshall Weekly Wednesday

WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAY, STARTING FROM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020, UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

6-SS, G/90+30. Two Sections: U2000: (\$600 b/25) \$250-150-100; U1700: \$100. U1400: (\$600 b/25) \$250-150-100; U1100: \$100. EF: \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: 7pm each Wed. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall Thursday Action

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. EF: \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 7-8:10-9:20-10:30pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Marshall Thursday Open

WEEKLY ON THURSDAY, STARTING FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020, UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

6-SS, G/90+30. (\$600 b/25): \$250-150; U1900: \$100; Top Senior (Age 50+): \$100. EF: \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 7pm each Thurs. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

Marshall Masters

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

4-SS, G/25 d5. Open to players rated 2000+. FIDE Rapid rated. (\$750 b/25): \$250-150-100; U2400: \$125; U2300: \$100; Biggest upset: \$25 EF: \$30; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. Rds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 18, 2020 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), CANCELED: 2020 U.S. G/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (BLZ)

See Nationals.

DECEMBER 19, 2020 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 17), CANCELED: 2020 U.S. G/30 CHAMPIONSHIP
See Nationals.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (postponed from July 15-19) Note hotel change

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

-WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

An official FIDE Continental Championship offering IM, FM, WIM, WFM direct FIDE titles and GM, IM, WGM, WIM norms for winners! The 2019 North American Junior was held in Charlotte and had a record 77 players. Two sections: Open U20 and Girls U20 (girls may enter either section). 9 rounds, G/90 inc/30, USCF and FIDE-rated, FIDE norms and titles available. Venue: Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JN Keynes Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262. Hotel: \$109/night (single/double), free breakfast, free 3-mile shuttle, free internet, free parking, fridge/microwave in every room. \$15 discount off tournament entry fee if staying at official hotel. Open to all players from USA, Canada, and Mexico who are under 20 (19 & younger) as of 1/1/2020 (born 2000 or after). This is a completely open event for those who meet the age and eligibility requirements. Awards: Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals to top 3 in each section (on tiebreaks if necessary). Gold medalists win Personal Rights status at 2021 North American Junior and Pan-Am Junior Championships. Direct FIDE Titles: Open section-Gold medal = IM title and GM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive IM title, gold medalist also earns GM norm. Silver = FM title and IM norm. Bronze = FM title and IM norm. Girls section-Gold = WIM title and WGM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive WIM title, gold medalist also earns WGM norm. Silver = WFM title and WIM norm. Bronze = WFM title and WIM norm. Schedule: suggested arrival Friday 12/18. Players meeting 12/19 12:30pm, Rounds Sat 1pm, 7pm, Sun 12pm, 6pm, Mon 12pm, 6pm, Tues 12pm, 6pm, Wed 10am. Registration: Players should register directly with the organizers online, it is not necessary to go through the federation. Entry Fee: \$260 paid online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/najunior until 11/20, \$280 until 12/10, \$300 until 12/18. No registration after 12/18. \$15 off EF if staying at official hotel. Refunds before 11/20 subject to 5% service fee. No refunds for withdrawals after 11/20. No half-point byes, only zero-point byes. All equipment provided! This event takes place at the same time as the U.S. G/10/G/30, G/60 Championship (www.charlottechesscenter.org/usblitzrapid). FIDE Rules, December FIDE ratings used for pairings, USCF and FIDE-rated, all players must have US Chess membership. Organizer: Charlotte Chess Center, contact: grant@charlottechesscenter.org. Info, detailed regulations, registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/najunior

DECEMBER 20, 2020 (POSTPONED FROM JULY 19), CANCELED: 2020 U.S. G/60 CHAMPIONSHIP
See Nationals

PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club

Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See www.northpennchessclub.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418.

TEXAS

NOVEMBER 26-29, 2020, 75th Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships
See Grand Prix.

WYOMING

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Wyoming Open 2020 (Mask only)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020 -SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020

4SS, Friday, Rd. 1, G/90 d5, Saturday, RDS: 2-4, G/90 d5, LCCC Conference Center, Training Room 112, 1400 E. College Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82001. 2 Sections: Open to all, Reserve Under 1800 b/entries. Restrictions: Mask only, by LCCC & WY state law. Prizes: b/entries. Mask only, by LCCC & WY state law. Reg: Fri 5:30 - 6:30 P.M. Rds: Fri 7:00 P.M. Sat 8:00 A.M. 12:30 P.M. 5:30 P.M. First Rd Byes Available, Before First Round. Email Pre-D.K. Ent: Brian Walker, 2835 Forest Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

The Tournament Announcements on these pages are provided for the convenience of US Chess members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither US Chess nor Chess Life warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed.



Gold & Silver Affiliates



US CHESS would like to recognize and thank
all of our Affiliates for their commitment and hard work.

US CHESS GOLD AFFILIATES

Bay Area Chess

2050 Concourse Drive #42
San Jose, CA 95131
408-409-6596
ask@bayareachess.com
www.bayareachess.com

Berkeley Chess School

2622 San Pablo Avenue,
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-843-0150
tournaments@berkeleychessschool.org
www.berkeleychessschool.org

Capital Area Chess

Centreville VA
703-627-5314
info@capitalareachess.com
www.capitalareachess.com

Caveman Chess, LLC

27 Morris Street
Park Ridge, IL 60068
224-985-5244
contact@cavemanchess.com
www.cavemanchess.com

ChessNYC.com

Michael Propper
1562 1st Ave #189
New York, NY 10128
212-475-8130
info@chessnyc.com
www.chessnyc.com

Continental Chess Association

P.O. Box 8482
Pelham, NY 10803
201-347-2269
director@chess.us
www.chesstour.com

Marshall Chess Club

23 West 10th Street,
New York, NY 10011
212-477-3716
admin@marshallchessclub.org
www.marshallchessclub.org

PaperClip Pairings

c/o Remy Ferrari
4 Jalapa Court
Brownsville, TX 78526
956-621-0377
rrferrari@bisd.us

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis

4657 Maryland Avenue,
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-CHESS
info@saintlouischessclub.org
www.saintlouischessclub.org

San Diego Chess Club

2225 Sixth Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92101
619-752-4377
chucnglo@aol.com
www.sandiegochessclub.org

WilliamsburgTutoring.com

David Green
60 Broadway
Brooklyn NY 11249
info@ChessNYC.com
www.WilliamsburgTutoring.com

US CHESS SILVER AFFILIATES

Chess Center of New York (NY)

www.chesscenter.cc

En Passant Chess Club (TX)

td_edg@twc.com

Evangel Chess Club (AL)

www.evangelchurch.me

Jersey Shore HS Chess League (NJ)

shorehschessleague@yahoo.com

Little House of Chess, Inc. (NY)

littlehouseofchess.com

Long Island Chess Nuts (NY)

516-739-3907

Michigan Chess Association (MI)

www.michess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation (OK)

www.OCFchess.org

Rochester Chess Center (NY)

www.chessset.com

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)

www.spartachessclub.org

For all information on becoming a Gold or Silver Affiliate, please visit www.uschess.org/content/view/7905/95.

U.S. Postal Service. Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). (1) Title of publication: Chess Life. (2) Publication number: 102-840. (3) Date of filing: September 30, 2020 (4) Frequency of issue: Monthly. (5) No. of issues published annually: 12. (6) Annual subscription price: \$72. (7) Complete mailing address of known office of publication (street, city, county, state, and ZIP code) (Not printers): P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555 (8) Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business office of the publisher (Not printers): PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. (9) Full names/complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor (this item must not be blank). Publisher (name/complete mailing address): Carol Meyer, US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. Editor (name/complete mailing address): John Hartmann, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. Managing Editor (name and complete mailing address): same as above. (10) Owner. (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately there under the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other incorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Do not leave blank.): United States Chess Federation, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. (11) Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities (if there are none, so state): none. (12) For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates section 423.12, DMM only). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and tax exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (check one): ☒ has not changed during preceding 12 months; ☐ has changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.) (13) Publication Name: Chess Life. (14) Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2020. (15) Extent and nature of circulation. (a) Total number copies printed (net press run): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 23,503; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 22,625 (b) Paid and/or requested circulation: (1) Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions: average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 21,924; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 21,429. (2) Paid in-county subscriptions (include advertiser's proof copies/exchange copies): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. (3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales (not mailed): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. (4) Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. First Class Mail): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 323; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 295. (c) Total paid distribution (sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4); average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 22,247; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 21,724. Free or nominal rate distribution: (15d (1), (2), (3); average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. 15d (4); average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 200; actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 200. (e) Total free or nominal rate distribution (sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4): 200; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 200. (f) Total distribution (sum of 15c and 15e): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 22,447; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 21,924. (g) Copies not distributed: average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 1,056; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 701. (h) Total (sum of 15f and 15g) average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 23,503; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 22,625. (i) Percent paid. 15c divided by 15f x 100, per cent on average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 99.1; per cent on actual no. copies of single issue published nearest filing date, 99.1. 16. Electronic Copy Circulation. (a.) Requested and Paid Electronic Copies, average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 5; Number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 10. (b.) Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a), 22,252. Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing date, 21,734. (c.) Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a), 22,452; Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing date, 21,934. (d.) Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100) 99.1%; per cent on Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing date, 99.1%. I certify that 50% of all distributed copies (electronic and print) are legitimate requests or paid copies. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership. Publication of this statement will be printed in the November 2020 issue of this publication. 18. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete (signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner): Judy Misner (sig.), Business Manager. P.S. Form 3526, July 2014.



THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS



Thank you for being the sustaining force behind all our initiatives, and for making all of our programs possible.

US Chess Benefactor Members as of July 30, 2020:

Paul M. Albert Jr.	Carl Cohen	John McCrary
Mark Randall Bates	Jonathan Crumiller	Kenton McNall
Randy Bauer	Jeffrey Davidson	Robert D. Messenger
Jim Bedenbaugh	Martin Dean	David C. Miller
Michael Belovesick	Kenneth Duffy	Parker Montgomery
Jim Blackwood	Gregory Gliner	Ross Nickel
Robert J. Borel	Bill Goichberg	Bernard Novatt
Thomas E. Boyd	Calvin Halsey	Scott R. Parker
Joseph Boyle	Robert E. Hux	William E. Perry III
C. Martin Bradford	In Memory of	David H. Raymond
John J. Brendel	David Kaplan	Timothy P. Redman
Kate Canessa	David Kochman	Timothy M. Sawyier
David E. Carter	David Lazarus	Michael Schulte
Fabiano Caruana	Andrew Lerner	Daryl Skinner
	Christopher Lewis	Phillip Smith
	Jennie S. Liu	Christopher P. Snell



Adam Christopher Snow	Charles Unruh
Henry L. Terrie	John Walton
Henry J. Thompson	Bill Witmer
Harmon D. Throneberry Sr.	Edward Wycoff
Thomas N. Thrush	Brian Yang
Harold Torrance	



CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Check out these US Chess Rated Events!

US CHESS 73rd ANNUAL 2020 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

\$800 FIRST PRIZE (plus title of US Chess Golden Knights Champion and plaque)
2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those US Chess members with an APO or FPO address. US Chess members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to US Chess Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: Class A: 1800-1999 (very strong); Class B: 1600-1799 (strong); Class C: 1400-1599 (intermediate); Class D: 1399 and below (beginner level). Note: Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

US CHESS 17th ANNUAL 2020 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship*

\$800 FIRST PRIZE (plus title of US Chess electronic Knights Champion and plaque)
2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members with e-mail access. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten. Note: Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

*Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.

Mail in this form to enter, or call us at 800-903-USCF option 4, or visit us online at www.uschess.org

Name _____ US CHESS ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Est. Rating _____

Please call the number above to pay by credit card.

☐ Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated
 (note that this may slow down your assignment).

Make checks payable to US CHESS and mail to: Joan DuBois, US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557

Three ways to enter:

- Call 800-903-USCF (8723) option 4
- Visit us online at uschess.org
- Mail in the form below

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

Two or six-game options. ENTRY FEE: \$5.

☐ Win A Correspondence Chess Trophy

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy. Entry fee: \$10.

☐ Victor Palciauskas Prize Tournaments

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. Entry fee: \$25.

☐ John W. Collins Memorial Class Tournaments

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate. Entry fee: \$7.

EMAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED EMAIL ACCESS)

☐ Lightning Match

Two players with two or six-game option. Entry fee: \$5.

☐ Swift Quads

Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize US Chess CC entry credit of \$30. Rating-Levels 0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+. Entry fee: \$10.

☐ Walter Muir E-Quads (webserver chess)

Four-player, double round-robin webserver format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate. Entry fee: \$7.

Please check event(s) selected.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads & Electronic Knights, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

Classifieds

Chess Life accepts classified advertising in these categories: Activities, For Rent, For Sale, Games, Instruction, Miscellaneous, Services, Tournaments, Wanted. Only typed or e-mailed copy is accepted. Absolutely no telephone orders. Rates (per word, per insertion): 1-2 insertions \$1.50, 3-6 insertions \$1.25, 7+ insertions \$1.00. Affiliates pay \$1.00 per word regardless of insertion frequency. No other discounts available. Advertisements with less than 15 words will cost a minimum of \$15 per issue. Post office boxes count as two words, telephone numbers as one, ZIP code is free. Full payment must accompany all advertising. All advertising published in *Chess Life* is subject to the applicable rate card, available from the Advertising Department. *Chess Life* reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance. For a copy of these complete set of regulations & a schedule of deadlines, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Chess Life* Classifieds, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Ads are due two months prior (by the 10th) of the issue cover date you want your ad to appear in. (For example: October CL ads MUST be submitted no later than August 10th). You can e-mail your classified ad to Joan DuBois, tda@uschess.org.

For Sale

WORLD'S FINEST CHESS SETS

*The House of Staunton produces unquestionably the finest Staunton Chess sets. *Pay-Pal and all Major Credit Cards accepted. The House of Staunton, Inc.; 1021 Production Court; Suite 100; Madison, AL 35758. *Website: www.houseofstaunton.com; phone: (256)858-8070; email: sales@houseofstaunton.com

Instruction

TOP-QUALITY BARGAIN CHESS LESSONS BY PHONE

With more than 40 years of experience teaching chess, the Mid-Atlantic Chess Instruction Center is the best in the business. We specialize in adult students. We offer 35 different courses as well as individual game analysis. Center Director: Life Master Russell Potter. Tel.: (540) 344-4446. If we are out when you call, please leave your name & tel. #. Our Webpage is at: chessinstructor.org. NEW: FREE powerful analysis engines + FREE screen-sharing!

YOU'LL SEE REAL PROGRESS by Studying with 3-Time U.S. Champ GM Lev Alburt!

Private lessons (incl. by mail and phone) from \$80/hr. Autographed seven-volume, self-study Comprehensive Chess Course-only \$134 postpaid! P.O. Box 534, Gracie Station, NY, NY 10028. (212) 794-8706.

Wanted

CHESS-PLAYER SCHOLARS

in top 10% of high school class with USCF > 2000 and SAT (math + critical reading + writing) > 2150 for possible college scholarships to UMBC. Prof. Alan Sherman, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County, 21250. sherman@umbc.edu.

CHESSMATE® POCKET & TRAVEL SETS

Perfect chess gifts for the chess lover in your life:
 The finest magnetic chess sets available.
HANDMADE IN THE USA
30-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!
WWW.CHESSMATE.COM Phone: 425.697.4513

Solutions

Page 11 / CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM I. 37. ... Qf4 threatens 38. ... Qxh2 mate and 38. ... Qxc1+. White resigned after 38. Qxe6+ Kf8 because 39. Qc8+ Kf7 40. Qd7+ Kg6 41. Qe8+ Kh6 42. Qe6+ g6 runs out of safe checks. **PROBLEM II.** Don't take full credit for 41. Bg6! (threat of Rd8 mate) unless you also saw 41. ... Rd2 42. Bd4! Re2 43. Rd8+. **PROBLEM III.** 22. ... Rxh2+! 23. Kxh2 Rh8+ 24. Qh4 (24. Bh6 Qxf4) Rxh4+ 25. Bxh4 Qf4!. **PROBLEM IV.** 39. ... Qd3! and, for example, 40. ... Bf5 and 41. ... Bh3 (42. Qxh3 Qxe2). White resigned after 40. Nf1 h3. Also good is 39. ... Qc2! and ... Bd3. **PROBLEM V.** 26. Bb6! threatens 27. Rd8+ and mates. White eventually won after 26. ... Rxg2+ 27. Qxg2 Qxf5 28. Rd8+ Rxd8 29. Rxd8+ Ke7 30. Qg3. **PROBLEM VI.** 46. ... Qa1! threatens 47. ... Qxa5+. Black won after 47. Kc2 Bd3+! (also 47. ... Qxa5) 48. Qxd3 Rxc5+ 49. Kb3 Rxa5 (also 49. ... Qxa5 and 50. ... Rc4).

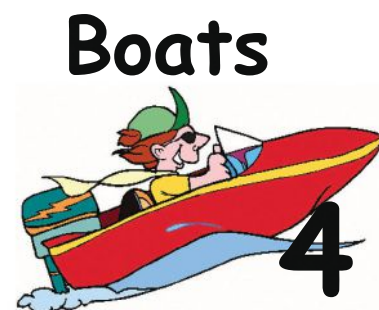
Page 46 / MAKE YOUR MOVE!

TACTIC I. 28. Nd5! The best, aiming to trap Black's queen. White has many good moves, for instance, 28. Ra3 Qe6 29. Ra6 Rd6 30. Nd5 with an overwhelming advantage. 28. Bh3 (threatening both 29. Bxd7 and 29. Ra3) is also winning, as 28. ... Ng4 29. Nxc4 hxc4 30. Bxc4 picks up material. 28. ... Ne7 Black misses White's threat, but 28. ... Nxd5 29. exd5 Rxd5 30. Bxd5 Qxd5 31. b5 Ne7 32. c4 is also hopeless for Black. 29. Ra3! The queen is trapped and **Black resigned**. Azaladze-Manukyan, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC II.** 22. Bxd3! White forces Black's queen forward. 22. ... Qxd3 23. Nd5! The point! Now Black's queen and bishop are hanging and there's no way to save both of them. 23. ... Qxb3 24. Nxe7+! The intermediary check wins the piece. 24. ... Kh7 25. axb3 and **Black resigned**. Yanchenko-Sawlin, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC III.** 13. ... Nxe4! 14. Rxe4 After 14. dxe4 Bxc4, Black has simply won a pawn. 14. ... d5 15. Rh4 g5! and now Black wins material. In the game, Black played 15. ... dxc4 which should have been met with 16. Bxh6 Bxh6 17. Rxh6 Nc5 18. d4 and Black is only slightly better. The stem game is Guimaraes-Aizpurua, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC IV.** 14. d5! Best. In the game, White played another strong continuation: 14. Nxe5 Qxc7 15. d5 Bf5 16. e4 Bc8?? (Black collapses; after 16. ... fxe5 17. exf5 Nd4 18. Na3 0-0-0 Black can still fight) 17. Qh5+ g6 18. Nxc6 Qf7 19. Bxf6 Rg8 20. Qe5+ and **Black resigned**. 1-0 14. ... Qxd5 The point! 15. Nd4! e4 Or 15. ... Qc4 16. Nxe6 Qxe6 17. Bxb7 and White is winning. 16. Qxb3 Qxb3 17. Nxb3 Bxb3 18. Bh3! The clever point behind White's combination: the c-pawn cannot be stopped. Zwardon-Csonka, Slovakian Team ch 2020. **TACTIC V.** 19. Qe3! After this sneaky move, Black cannot organize his pieces adequately. In the game, White won quickly after 19. Bxh7+? Kxh7 20. Qxd4 Qxa2 21. Qd3+ Kg8?? (21. ... f5! defends) 22. Qg6! and **Black resigned** in Cerveny-Patrascu, Titled Tuesday 2020. 19. ... Qc5 Or 19. ... Qa4 20. Qe7 and Black is struggling to guard g7. 20. Rb5! Exploiting the pin of the knight

to win a piece. 20. ... Qc7 21. Qxd4 Qxh2+ 22. Kf1 Qh1+ 23. Qg1 Qxf3+ 24. Ke1 and White should win. **TACTIC VI.** 23. Bd7! A nasty move that threatens to play Ne3-f5 and if ... Qe7-f6, then Rd1-d6. With the bishop on d7, Black cannot organize a proper defense. 23. ... h5! Black's only chance to stay in the game as 23. ... Qf6 can be met with 24. Nd5 (or 24. Nf5 h5 25. Qxh5 Bc8 26. Bxc8 Rxd1 27. Qxd1 Rxc8 28. Qd7 and White is winning) 24. ... Qxb2 25. Bxc6 Bxc6 26. Ne7+, winning a piece. 24. Qxg7+! Winning a pawn, but also opening up for Black's king. 24. ... Kxg7 25. Nf5+ Kf6?? Black should have played 25. ... Kg6 26. Nxe7+ Nxe7 27. Rxe7 Bc8 28. Ba4 with chances of saving the endgame if White cooperates. 26. Rxe7! Ouch! 26. ... Kg6 Necessary as 26. ... Nxe7 27. Rd6 mate would end the game on the spot. 27. Rd6+ Kh7 28. Rh6+ Kg8 29. Re3 and **Black resigned** before he would get mated. Espinosa Aranda-Jimenez Ruano, Spanish ch (Linares) 2020. **TACTIC VII.** It's hard to believe that Black should be in danger of losing already, but White's lead in development is causing major headaches. 12. cxd5! exd5 Or 12. ... Bxd5 13. Bc4 (but not 13. e4? Bc6! and Black saves himself) 13. ... a5 14. Ne5 Qc8 15. Bxd5 exd5 16. Rxd5 Qe6 17. Rd2 and White has both a pawn and a major lead in development. 13. Ng5! The pin on the d-pawn forces Black's hand. In the game, White won after 13. Bd3 Qe7?? (Black can put up a better fight after 13. ... Qe8 14. Bb5 Qc8 although White here too is clearly better) 14. Bxe4 dxe4 15. Ng5! Rd8 16. Rxd8+ Qxd8 17. Qxe4 and **Black resigned** in Weetik-Jenni, Titled Tuesday 2020. 13. ... Qe7 or 13. ... Bg6 14. Bc4 and the threat of Bxd5 costs Black material. 14. b4! White also has a decisive advantage after 14. Nxe4 Qxe4 15. Qxe4 dxe4 16. Bc4 a5 17. Bd5 Ra7 18. Bxe4 but the text move wins a piece. 14. ... h6 15. Nxe4 Qxe4 16. f3 White chases Black's queen away, removing the pin the pawn on b4 and therefore winning the bishop on c5. **TACTIC VIII.** 18. Nh5! White removes an important defender while simultaneously accelerating his attack. White has two good alternatives in 18. Nf5! exf5 19. Bxf6 Bxf6 20. Qxf5, winning a pawn, and 18. Re3 with a strong attack. 18. ... Qd8 If 18. ... Nxe5 then the thematic and classic 19. Bxh7+! (note that White should also win after 19. Qxh5 f5 20. Bxg7 Kxg7 21. Rxe6 Ra7 22. Rfe1 Bd8 23. Bxf5 and Black's defense will not hold for long) 19. ... Kxh7 20. Qxh5+ Kg8 21. Bxg7 Kxg7 22. Qg4+ Kh7 23. Re3 decides the game. 19. Nxc7! Now Black's king shelter gets ripped to shreds. 19. ... Kxg7 20. Qg4+ Kh8 21. Qh4! and with forced mate in a few moves, **Black resigned**. Of course, both Qg4-h5 and Qg4-h3 would have led to the same result. Lugovskoy-Reprintsev, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC IX.** 20. ... d4!! An important intermediary move. The game went 20. ... Rb8? 21. Qxc3! Qxc3+ 22. Rxc3 Rb1+ 23. Kd2 Rxh1 24. Rxc6, and here **Black resigned** in disgust in Tang-Willow, Titled Tuesday 2020, but he is still very much in the game: 24. ... h5 25. Rxa6 Rxh2 26. Ra8+ Kh7 27. Rf8 Rxg2 28. Rxf7 Rg4 with a sharp rook ending and chances to both sides. 21. exd4 Rb8! Now the rook move is decisive because after 22. Qxc3 Rb1+ 23. Kd2, the e-pawn is now a d-pawn and therefore Black has 23. ... Qg5+, forcing 24. Qe3 Qxe3+ 25. Kxe3 Rxh1 and Black is winning.

Page 53 / ABCs OF CHESS

PROBLEM I. Mating Net: It is mate by 1. ... Qd2+ 2. Qc2 Qxc2 mate. **PROBLEM II. Mating Net:** Black mates in two: 1. ... Qg3+ 2. Ke2 Nf4 mate. **PROBLEM III. Mating net:** Black mates in one: 1. ... Rd1 mate. **PROBLEM IV. Mating net:** Black mates in two: 1. ... Nc2+ 2. Kd1 Re1 mate. **PROBLEM V. Mating net:** Sudden mate happens by 1. ... Qd1+ 2. Kf4 Qd4 mate. **PROBLEM VI. Mating net:** Black mates after 1. ... Qb3+ 2. Kd2 by either 2. ... Be3 mate or 2. ... Bb4 mate..



Boats Kidneys

Donate your Boat,
Car, Truck, RV,
Plane, or Real Estate
to help people needing
organ transplants on
MatchingDonors.com

Boats4Kidneys.com

1-800-385-0422

CHESS LIFE USPS # 102-840 (ISSN 0197-260X). Volume 75 No. 11. PRINTED IN THE USA. Chess Life, formerly Chess Life & Review, is published monthly by the United States Chess Federation, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38557-3967. Chess Life & Review and Chess Life remain the property of USCF. Annual subscription (without membership): \$72. Periodical postage paid at Crossville, TN 38557-3967 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Chess Life (USCF), PO Box 3967, Crossville, Tennessee 38557-3967. Entire contents ©2020 by the United States Chess Federation. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise without the prior written permission of USCF. Note: Unsolicited materials are submitted at the sender's risk and Chess Life accepts no responsibility for them. Materials will not be returned unless accompanied by appropriate postage and packaging. Address all submissions to Chess Life, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967. The opinions expressed are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Chess Federation. Send all address changes to: U.S. Chess, Membership Services, PO Box 3967, Crossville, Tennessee 38557-3967. Include your USCF I.D. number and a recent mailing label if possible. This information may be e-mailed to addresschange@uscf.org. Please give us eight weeks advance notice. PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 41473530 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO EXPRESS MESSENGER INTERNATIONAL P.O. BOX 25058 LONDON BRC, ONTARIO, CANADA N6C 6A8

MY BEST MOVE

Kimberly Liu

Women's FIDE Master and Chess Streamer

Right after finishing a clay art exhibition at a local library, and right before Thanksgiving, my family and I embarked on a road trip down to Baja California for the 2018 North American Junior Championships. I was in good spirits after helping many children bring their imagination to life through the form of clay. They typically approach me with a request to make a character that they admire, but instead of simply sculpting one for them, I give them a ball of clay and work with them to create their own unique masterpieces.

The step-by-step process in art has greatly influenced my chess methodology. In chess games, if I have an idea, I make sure that I achieve the end goal one move at a time while resolving any difficulties I may face along the way. Sometimes, there are unexpected surprises. But improvisation is what makes chess so gripping and exciting!

The North American Junior Championships was one of the biggest tournaments of my life. As the third seed, I had a decent chance at achieving first place and earning the coveted WIM title. Despite the pressure, I only focused on putting my best foot forward, one step at a time.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ALAPIN VARIATION (B22)

Kimberly Liu

Svitlana Demchenko

North American Junior U20 Girls, 2018

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. g3

A novelty introduced to me by my coach GM Gregory Kaidanov, largely aimed at avoiding main lines.

4. ... d6 5. exd6 Qxd6 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. Ne2 Bf5 8. d4 Rd8 9. O-O e6 10. Na3 a6 11. Nf4 Nf6 12. Nc4 Qc7 13. d5!

An attempt to open the center while Black's king is still stranded in the middle.

13. ... Be7 14. Ne3 Ne5 15. Nxf5 exf5 16. Qc2 g6 17. c4 O-O 18. Bd2 Nfd7 19. h4 Bf6 20. Rae1 Qd6 21. Re2 b5

This pawn break completely undermines my center by targeting the c4-pawn. I was slowly



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUBJECT

... improvisation is what makes chess so gripping and exciting!

but surely losing my grip on the position.

22. cxb5 axb5 23. Rfe1 Rc8 24. Nh3? Qa6 25. Bc3 Nc4 26. Bxf6 Nxf6 27. b3 Nd6 28. Qd2 Kg7 29. Nf4 Nde4 30. Qb2 c4 31. Qd4 c3 32. Bxe4 fxe4 33. Rxe4 c2 34. Rc1 Qxa2 35. Re7

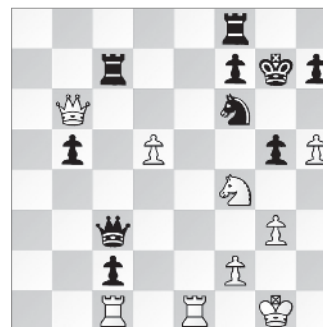
With just a few minutes left on the clock, time pressure was settling in for both of us. I was ready to launch a reckless attack and go out in a blaze of glory.

35. ... Qa3 36. Ree1 Qxb3 37. h5 Qc3 38. Qa7 Rc7 39. Qb6 g5

(See diagram top of next column)

40. h6+!

MY BEST MOVE: A subtle tactic. After luring the black king away from the defense of the f6-knight, the black queen is overloaded, having to protect both the c7-rook and



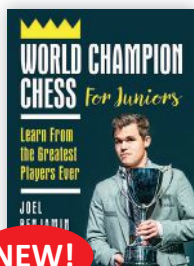
f6-knight. I proceed to take advantage of this fact by chasing the queen from her comfy spot on c3.

40. ... Kxh6 41. Ne2 Qe5 42. Nd4 Qxe1+ 43. Rxe1 c1=Q 44. Qxf6+ Kh5 45. Rxc1 Rxc1+ 46. Kg2 Rg8 47. g4+ Kh4 48. Qh6+ Kxg4 49. Qh3+ Kf4 50. Qe3+ Kg4 51. Qf3+, Black resigned. ♠

888.51.CHESS (512.4377)



www.USCFSales.com



NEW!

Learn From the Greatest Players Ever

Joel Benjamin

GM Joel Benjamin presents the most instructive games of each of the seventeen World Champions. He describes both their historical significance and how they inspired his own development as a player. Magic names such as Kasparov, Capablanca, Alekhine, Botvinnik, Tal, and Karpov, they're all there, up to current World Champion Magnus Carlsen. Benjamin explains, in words rather than in chess symbols, what is important for your own improvement.



The Greatest Winning Streaks in Chess History

Cyrus Lakdawala

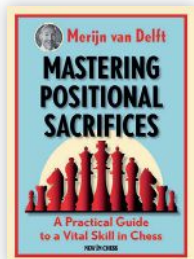
A winning streak is more than just the sum of its games. When do champions become unstoppable and demolish their rivals? A trip through chess history looking at peak performances of Morphy, Steinitz, Pillsbury, Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Botvinnik, Fischer, Tal, Kasparov, Karpov, Caruana and Carlsen.

"Instructive and entertaining." – IM John Donaldson



New In Chess 2020#6

Read by club players in 116 countries. Bobby Fischer and the Cheese Sandwich variation. Carlsen's trainer explains how the champ defeated Naka in the gruelling Grand Final. Celeb 64: Jane Fonda. Matthew Sadler on new books. Judit Polgar: what I learned from Alexei Shirov. Fridrik Olafsson revisits Portoroz. What Should a Club Player Play? Maximize Your Tactics. Timman on Larsen. And much more. Download the free app and replay all the moves in the Gameviewer!

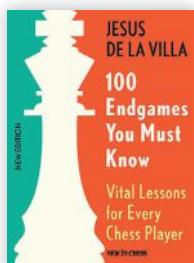


A Practical Guide to a Vital Skill in Chess

Merijn van Delft

Anyone who wants to become a candidate master, needs to understand the positional sacrifice. IM Van Delft has created a unique thematic structure for all types of positional sacrifices, shows lots of examples and adds carefully selected exercises.

"Masterfully discusses a vital topic, to bring your chess to the next level." – GM Karsten Müller



Vital Lessons for Every Chess Player

Jesus de la Villa

"If you've never read an endgame book before, this is the one you should start with."

GM Matthew Sadler, former British Champion

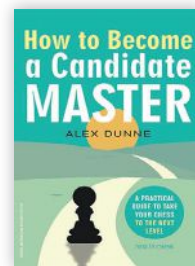
"If you really have no patience for endgames, at least read 100 Endgames You Must Know."

Gary Walters Chess

A Practical Guide to Take Your Chess to the Next Level

Alex Dunne

Defeating 2000+ players will start feeling normal after working with this extended & improved edition of the 1985 bestselling classic. Based on real amateur games, Alex Dunne takes you by the hand and offers lots of practical, straightforward and effective advice. Slowly but surely, you will improve in all aspects of the game. Surprise yourself and reach higher!

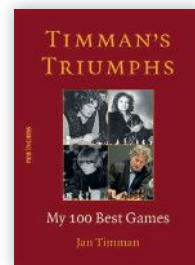


My 100 Best Games

Jan Timman

Covers a career of more than 50 years and includes wins against Karpov, Kasparov, Kortchnoi, Smyslov, Tal, Bronstein, Larsen, Topalov, Spassky and many others.

"This is magnificent. The book is dotted with fascinating anecdotes. Timman plays in a swashbuckling style, but always underpinned with a great strategic and positional sense." – GM Daniel King, Power Play Chess

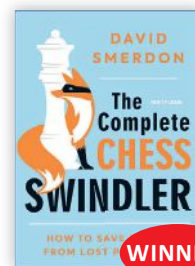


How to Save Points from Lost Positions

David Smerdon

"Terrific examples and explanations. I have to recommend it to every chess friend, because the next lost position may come sooner than expected!" – IM Dirk Schuh

"A thrilling guide. Smerdon takes care to emphasize that the best practical chance in a bad position may well differ from the numerically 'best' move favoured by chess engines." – GM Luke McShane, The Spectator



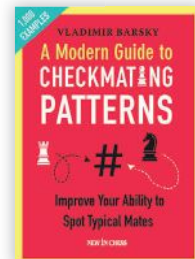
WINNER!

Improve Your Ability to Spot Typical Mates

Vladimir Barsky

This is not just another book full of chess puzzles: it's a brilliantly organised course based on a Russian method that has proven to be effective. More often than you would expect, positions that look innocent at first sight, turn out to contain a mating pattern.

"A really important book, set out very clearly, extremely well organized." – GM Daniel King

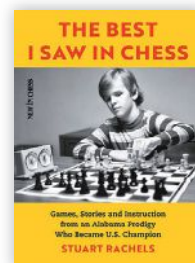


Games, Stories and Instruction from an Alabama Prodigy Who Became U.S. Champion

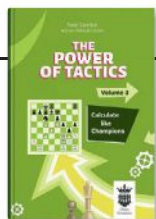
Stuart Rachels

"The most enjoyable book I've read in a decade. This is what an autobiographical chess book should be: entertaining, honest and instructive." – GM Andy Soltis

"This book was a blast to read. It is fresh, entertaining, but it also offers a lot of serious, deep chess analysis." Arne Kaehler, ChessBase News



Free Ground Shipping On All Books, Software and DVDS at US Chess Sales
\$25.00 Minimum - Excludes Clearance, Shopworn and Items Otherwise Marked



THE POWER OF TACTICS – VOLUME 3 – CALCULATE LIKE CHAMPIONS

by Adrian Mikhalchishin &
Tadej Sakelšek

B0063EV - \$27.95

The middlegame is the most important part of the game, as the majority of encounters are decided there. Calculate Like Champions is the third book in the series The Power of Tactics. In this third volume, the authors continue to develop their ideas from the first two books where they explain that in chess there are four main tactical elements (check, pin, double attack and unprotected pieces).

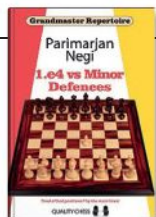


DECISION MAKING IN MAJOR PIECE ENDINGS

by Boris Gelfand HARDCOVER EDITION

B0177QT - \$34.95

In this book, former World Championship Challenger Boris Gelfand discusses his path to decision making in endgames involving rooks or queens, as well as the often neglected "4th Phase." Countless games are decided by good or bad technique in such endgames, so readers are certain to benefit from the insights of a world-class Grandmaster on this vital topic.

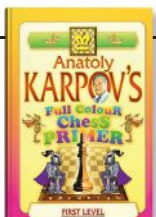


1. e4 vs. MINOR DEFENCES

by Parimarjan Negi

B0175QT - \$29.95

The fifth volume of this series provides a top-class repertoire against the Alekhine, Scandinavian, Pirc and Modern Defences, plus various offbeat alternatives Black may try. Negi's latest work continues the winning formula of his previous books: the 1.e4 repertoire is founded on established main lines and turbo-charged with the innovative ideas of a world-class theoretician, making this an essential addition to the library of every ambitious player.

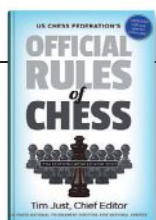


ANATOLY KARPOV'S FULL COLOUR CHESS PRIME – FIRST LEVEL

by Anatoly Karpov

B0035RCH - \$34.95

Chess is the game of kings, and in this book you will learn how to play from the king of chess by World Champion Anatoly Karpov. This book will enable your child to master the rules of the game in a relaxed manner, and will help him or her to conquer new heights not only in chess but in life too. This is because chess develops patience, logical thinking and memory, and teaches how to use time rationally.



US CHESS FEDERATION'S OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS – SEVENTH EDITION

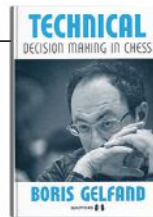
B0001USCF - \$21.99

This comprehensive rulebook is the only guide sanctioned and compiled by the US Chess Federation, the governing body for chess in the United States. It is designed as a reference for all chess players-but especially tournament chess players-and tournament directors. This is the September 2020 Updated Edition – Includes new rules for Online Chess!

TECHNICAL DECISION MAKING IN CHESS

by Boris Gelfand HARDCOVER EDITION **B0176QT - \$34.95**

In this book, former World Championship Challenger Boris Gelfand discusses his path to decision making in endgames and positions where one side possesses a structural or material advantage. This investigation into a top Grandmaster's technical understanding will illuminate difficult parts of the game that many players find elusive. Concepts like the "Zone of one mistake" are certain to be a revelation to many.

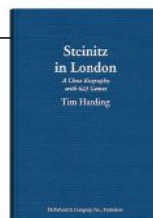


STEINITZ IN LONDON

by Tim Harding

B0020MF - \$74.95

Drawing on new research, this first biography of William Steinitz (1836–1900), the first World Chess Champion, covers his early life and career, with a fully-sourced collection of his known games until he left London in 1882. A portrait of mid-Victorian British chess is provided, including a history of the famous Simpson's Divan.



MAGNUS WINS WITH BLACK

by Zenon Franco

B0034ER - \$19.95

In this book, the author deeply analyses 30 of Magnus Carlsen's most instructive games where he wins with the black pieces. This book is written in "move by move" style, a good training tool containing exercises and tests. This format is a great platform for studying chess, improving both skills and knowledge, as the reader is continually challenged to find the best moves and the author provides answers to probing questions throughout.

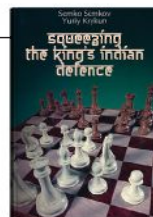


SQUEEZING THE KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE

by Semko Semkov & Yuriy Krykun

B0152EU - \$31.95

This book presents a full repertoire based on the Gligoric System against the King's Indian Defence – 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3. The key point of this set-up is that White does not commit his king to any flank, at least for a while. That makes Black's thematic attack with ...f5-f4, ...g4 pointless and allows White to play chess without having to memorise tons of variations.



SQUEEZING THE SICILIAN – THE ALAPIN VARIATION

by Alexander Khalifman &
Sergei Soloviov

B0153EU - \$37.95

In the Alapin System, White's strategic idea is extremely simple. He prepares to advance with d2-d4, to build a solid pawn center and then dictate the play. He will have to pay for this with the fact that his queen's knight has been deprived of the best square for its development, but it may have other suitable squares. The modern evaluation of this system is that Black has comfortable enough lines in which he can obtain an acceptable game.

